

Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee Supplementary Information



Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2024

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: City Hall

4. Public Forum

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

(Pages 3 - 110)

Any member of the public or Councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting: -

Questions - Written questions must be received 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by 5 pm on 21 November 2024.

Petitions and Statements - Petitions and statements must be received two clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting this means that your submission must be received in this office at the latest by 12:00 Noon 25 November 2024.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend a public meeting at City Hall are advised that you will be **required to sign in** when you arrive, and you will be issued with a visitor pass which you will **need to display at all times**.

Issued by: Democratic Services
City Hall, Bristol, BS1 9NE
Tel: 3526162

www.bristol.gov.uk



E-mail: democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk

Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2024



Public Forum - Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee-27th



Number	Name	Subject
1	Ian and Stella Creer	Right of Way application IE0/1415
2	Alison Foster	"
3	Helen Powell	"
4	Paul Spellward	"
5	David Mayer	"
6	Sue Geary	"
7	Philippa Nason	
8	Guy Nason	"
9	Christine Porter	"
10	Nicola Cooper	"
11	John Hollyman	"
12	Roderick MacLeod	"
13	Jon Kennedy	"
14	Robin Parker	"
15	Anthony Reddiford	"
16	Larissa Wilton	"
17	Susan Hollyman	"
18	Alan Preece	"
19	Susan Mayer	"
20	Stewart Geddes	"
21	Chris, Emma, William, Isla, and Maria Law	"
22	Helen and Neil Sachdev	"
23	Rob Crews	"
24	Dorothy Nunn	"
25	Peter Hobbs	"

26	Ghyslaine Hobbs	“
27	Tony Beckingsale	“
28	Elizabeth Baker	“
29	Hilary Corfield	“
30	Elizabeth Warbutton	“
31	Gabrielle Huggins	“
32	Peter and Janet Sears	“
33	Stephen Abbotts	“
34	Stephanie French	“
35	Neil Phillips	“
36	Dan Mason	“
37	Felicity Pine	“
38	Sharon Parsons	“
39	Anthea and Reginald Davey	“
40	Chris Woodford	“
41	Alan Morris	“
42	Judith Young	“
43	Andrew and Catherine Barnes	“
44	Pauline Lemon	“
45	Helen Day	“
46	Jenny and Peter Weeks	“
47	Fiona Evans	“
48	Malcom Davies	“
49	John Moore	“
50	Gail Banham	“
51	G Wright and J Wright	“
52	Geoff Causton	“

53	Ken Young	“
54	John Henn	“
55	Shirley Brown	“
56	Mrs Polly-Anna Cockerham	“
57	Lucy Swithinbank	“
58	Jenny Grenfell-Shaw	“
59	Ewen MacLeod	“
60	Ken Wilkinson	“
61	Susan Elstob	“
62	Hugh Snodgrass	“
63	David Watkins	“
64	Matt Fletcher	“
65	Allister Simpson	“
66	Caroline Simpson	“
67	Chris Harries	“
68	Karen Cole	“
69	Della and Simon Hooper	“
70	Michael Sheehan	“
71	Robert Wilton	“
72	Emily Newman	“
73	Ben Willcocks	“
74	Keith & Gill Edwards	“
75	Mary Alpass	“
76	Stella Creer	“
77	Michelle Mason	“
78	Thomas Henry Cockcroft Alpass	“
79	Jenny White	“

80	Philip White	“
81	Joan Littlewood	“
82	Emma Geale	“
83	Barry Geale	“
84	Mike Whitworth	“
85	Judith Brant	“
86	Ken Pattison	“
87	Graeme Hogg	“
88	Vivien Gellett	“
89	Andrew and Margaret Hiles	“
90	Yvan Costes	“
91	Alexandra Sarah Macara	“
92	Sylvia, Lady Macara	“
93	Kathy Welham	“
94	Alison Chlebig	“
95	Emma Burgess	“
96	Stuart Huggett	“
97	Rolf Hudson	“
98	Jonathan and Diana Wyatt	“
99	Cotham School	“
100	Jonathan Johnson	“



2 Cheyne Road
Bristol BS9 2DH

Friday 18th October 2024

For the attention of Bristol City Council PROW team

We are the owners of 2 Cheyne Road, Bristol BS9 2DH. We have owned and lived in this property for 39 years, since 1985.

We understand that at the meeting on 27 November 2024, the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee will consider applications to register public rights of way over Stoke Lodge Playing Field. One of the entry points to the field is at the top of Cheyne Road and therefore any relevant rights of way that pass through the Cheyne Road entrance would start from the highway and cross the field, or emerge from the field and join with the highway, using a route in front of our home.

Cheyne Road is an unadopted highway and the owners of each of numbers 1, 1a, 2 and 4 Cheyne Road own the land in front of their home up to a boundary that forms the midline of Cheyne Road. Thus the route used by people crossing to and from the Cheyne Road entrance to Stoke Lodge Playing Field crosses land that is privately owned by us.

We confirm that:

- (a) We are aware of longstanding passage by members of the public over the land in front of our home while going to/from Stoke Lodge Playing Field,
- (b) We believe this to be 'as of right' (without force, without secrecy and without permission) and
- (c) We have no objection to such use.

Such use has taken place frequently throughout the day and on a daily basis throughout our ownership. We have never made any attempt to restrict or prevent such use in order to access Stoke Lodge, nor are we aware of any such attempt being made by anyone else.

We consider the use by members of the public of this route to have been 'as of right' and of a nature that would establish a right of way over this land. This right is currently unrecorded and it would not be possible to regularise the position by recording such a right of way without it connecting to a right of way over Stoke Lodge Playing Field.

If the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee decides at its meeting on 27 November 2024 that the claimed routes over Stoke Lodge Playing Field (applied for by Professor Alan Preece in application IE0/1415 on 30 May 2018) should be registered, then we consider that the currently unrecorded way over our land should also be recorded on the Definitive Map.

Ian Creer
Stella Creer

2

I would like to write a statement in support of these public rights of way. I regularly walk across Stoke Lodge from West Dene to Shirehampton Road to visit close friends as well as attend courses at the adult education centre. It cuts off a huge walk along a busy road with a narrow pavement and is invaluable to me and my family. We have walked this route for over 2 decades apart from the recent years when the fence was up.

Yours sincerely
Alison Foster

3 Public Forum statement for PROWG Committee 27 November 2024 - Helen Powell Application to record public rights of way at Stoke Lodge Playing Fields

Our community welcomes the expert recommendation, endorsed in the officer's report, that four new public rights of way across Stoke Lodge should be recorded on the Definitive Map.

There is significant evidence of frequent public use of these routes over many decades. Cotham School, in its objections, wants to suggest that this is 'village green' use not 'public right of way' use, but the facts are that:

- Many people use Stoke Lodge in both ways - sometimes they use the field for informal sports and pastimes (village green use) and sometimes they use these historic footpaths across the field to get to the shops, to school, to the bus stop etc. The Committee is entitled to take this large number of witnesses at their word in relation to their use of these routes.
- In quoting extensively from TVG documents, the School's barrister has carefully and deliberately **not** drawn your attention to the fact that all consideration in the TVG processes noted and discounted use that is in the nature of a public right of way - see paragraph 342 of Inspector Petchey's 2016 Report which states: 'I should add that, as one would expect in the circumstances, **the evidence shows that the land is used as a short cut to and from places on either side of it. This use does not count towards the establishment of a town or village green (walking from A to B is not a lawful sport and pastime) and I have not so counted it in reaching my view that there has been significant use of the land.**' It is very regrettable that the School and its advisers would seek to deliberately mislead you in this way.
- As above, the fact that some witnesses also provided evidence for the TVG applications does not contradict their PROW use but in any case, analysis shows that there are 72 PROW witnesses who did not give evidence for any of the Stoke Lodge TVG applications.

Cotham School also seeks to persuade you that there is a statutory incompatibility issue - that is, that you can't have a public footpath on school playing fields. But even within Bristol there are other schools that have this arrangement, including the Collegiate School in Stapleton and QEH on its sports ground at Failand. Even the playing fields of Harrow have a public footpath across them! And as Inspector Carr has pointed out, there is legislation that recognises that footpaths may exist on school premises and provides for their diversion only if specific conditions are met. Please don't let Cotham misdirect you on this - there is no statutory incompatibility since statutes **recognise** the possibility of footpaths on school land.

Cotham School seeks to persuade you that use was interrupted by sport, or that it made efforts to interrupt use, or that walking the routes was a criminal act. All such suggestions are patently absurd, especially in the context that the School's Chair of Governors Sandra Fryer agreed in the TVG1 inquiry that use of the field by the public had been satisfactory in the past. No such efforts were made, nor was use of the routes intentionally interrupted (as opposed to users giving way out of courtesy when a game was in progress - Inspector Carr is very clear on this issue).

Cotham School also seeks to argue that the Avon signs, which warned people not to trespass but went on to envisage that they would be using the land, made use of the routes contentious. As Inspector Carr has made clear at paragraphs 10.9 and 10.11 of his Report, the wording of the signs did not have this effect. In particular, nowhere do these ambiguous signs suggest that walking across the land is in any way contentious. They do not say 'no public right of way' or 'public access prohibited'.

In summary, there is no merit in the objections put forward by Cotham School. The Inspector's recommendation is clear, that there is sufficient evidence to establish that these rights of way should be recorded. There is a great weight of further witness evidence to support the decision to record these routes - paths that are so important to the daily life of our community. We ask the Committee to accept the Inspector's report and resolve to record the routes.

'Stoke Lodge is the hub of its community, criss-crossed by spokes of connections and daily trips, old footpaths that emerge like ghosts in a drought, but are in use all the year, joining

up people's lives, stitching together a shifting but palpable community.'
(Kathy Welham, September 2024)

PROW committee meeting 27th Nov 2024 public forum statement - PAUL SPELLWARD

(Stoke lodge rights of way registration)

I live on Coombe Lane. Over three decades, I have used the path across Stoke Lodge from the West Dene entrance (pavilion) to Shirehampton Road (adult education centre entrance / playpark entrance). ["route 2"] This is a direct route for me to the Shirehampton Road shops and also on my route to Sea Mills Station. As well as significant reduction in walking time compared to going only via paved roads, it provides a green interval in the journey which I have always found beneficial to me.

I regarded this route as an established footpath and I was outraged when it was blocked by the Cotham School fence. It has been most inconvenient and distressing to be deprived of this route. Fortunately, access is now restored.

I believe it is critical to ensure this route remains available for now and the indefinite future, for current and future generations. I therefore urge the PROW committee to register this footpath, and the others under consideration which cross Stoke Lodge in other directions, as a right of way.

(signed) Paul Spellward 19th November 2024

Public Statement by David Mayer.

For the Bristol City Council, Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee Meeting.

On Wednesday, 27th November 2024. Agenda item 4. - Public Forum.

Re: - Public Rights of Way on Stoke Lodge, Stoke Bishop, BS9 2BN.

I am compelled to write to express my support for this Rights of Way Application dated 1st May 2018 and accepted as duly made by BCC on 7th June 2018, together with the contents and recommendation of Robin Carr the Independent Consultants Report, Clause 15 (page 34) dated 14 November 2024 and the supporting recommendation in the Review and Briefing Report prepared by the BCC Rights of Way Officers on page 7, all in support of this Application.

These Public Rights of Way have been properly demonstrated to exist, and evidenced to comply with the qualifying criteria, and qualifying period prior to the date of the Application.

Furthermore, I see no reason to consider the request to delay the process as requested by Cotham on page 809 of the pack, since this has already been considered by the Specialist Consultant and the BCC PROW team and been rejected prior to making their recommendation.

I therefore request that the committee accept the evidence and recommendation of the experts and confirm approval for registration, and put an end to the uncertainty relating to this long-standing application, and enshrine ongoing use of these Public Rights of Way for future generations.

Yours faithfully
David Mayer

This is a statement in support of registering the rights of way across Stoke Lodge.

I use a mobility scooter and the advent of the fence stopped me (and dozens of other people) from crossing from the South Dene entrance to the Adult Learning Centre and to the shops on Shirehampton Road. This made a much more dangerous trip around the roadway on narrow pavements. It also made a much more dangerous commute for School children to get to the nearby schools off Shirehampton Road.

In frosty weather you can clearly see the paths that have been trodden for decades. I feel it is really important to keep these routes unobstructed.

Sue Geary

I am writing in support of the application made by Alan Preece with regards to four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge, which I understand will be considered at the forthcoming meeting.

As a member of the local community, a couple of the routes in question are particularly important to me (which when the fence was erected around the perimeter of Stoke Lodge by Cotham School, was really frustrating, making walking times both considerably longer and muddier).

At least twice a week, I walk from my house and use either the West Dene entrance (picking up three friends on Stoke Grove, Red House Lane & South Dene en route) or the one at the top of Stoke Lodge near the mini roundabout, and head down to the Cheyne Road exit (utilising either the yellow or blue route on the map made available to me), in order to access longer walks with my dog along the River Trym and in Blaise Estate. (Please note that because my dog gets very anxious when she meets other dogs, especially in confined spaces, we avoid the rather narrow bottom half of Ebenezer Lane). In addition, about twice a year, I use the yellow route to attend dentist appointments on Bell Barn Road. I also use the red route (from West Dene across to the Adult Learning Centre) reasonably frequently in order to attend ad hoc courses at the ALC and to get to the Co-op, Tesco and Fish & Chip shop which are all slightly further down Shirehampton Road (and, of course, the same route in reverse on my way back home).

I am aware that this application has wide support locally and therefore ask that the Committee register these routes without further ado.

Many thanks

Dr Philippa A Nason

Dear Democratic Services,

I would like to enter a statement to the Public Forum for the Extraordinary, Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee on Weds 27th November.

Thank you very much for your service to the community, which is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Guy Nason

The statement reads:

I have for a period of about ten years regularly made use of two of the marked paths that cross Stoke Lodge. These are

The path that traverses points J, H to A on the map. Roughly speaking from the West Dene entrance to the Cheyne Road entrance. I walk this path regularly in both directions. This is part of a longer walk I often do which begins at Stoke Lane shops, goes down Stoke Grove into Red House Lane, crosses Combe Lane, across a path through some houses, crosses South Dene, then a short way up Ebenezer Lane to the West Dene entrance. Then walk across Stoke Lodge on the public footpath to the Cheyne Road exit, down Cheyne Road, across Bell Barn Road and enter the western part of the Dingle, then along to the Dingle and enter into Blaise Estate through the main car park. From there walk along Blaise Estate following the atmospheric River Trym, into Henbury Golf Course, then crossing Canford Lane into Canford Park and then back along Abbey Road or through the cemetery. We walk this so frequently that we give it a name 'The Loop'. Walking through Stoke Lodge is quicker and more pleasurable than using nearby roads or, indeed, Ebenezer Lane, which is rather enclosed and does not feel particularly safe during dusk or at night.

The second path is the one that traverses points J to F on the map that links West Dene to Shirehampton Road. This is a fast route to get from the Stoke Lane area to the Shirehampton shops and services. There are many small high-quality businesses there that benefit from custom from 'the other side' of Stoke Lodge and the footpath is well used for these short cut purposes. Further, crossing the Lodge is immensely more pleasurable, safe and traffic free than the road route.

I would strongly support all of these four paths, and their tributaries, to be recorded and registered as public footpaths and it would then be great to see them turn up on Ordnance Survey maps, eg.

We moved to South Dene in 1970 (54 years ago) and using the footpaths, I walked our daughter to both nursery and primary school across Stoke Lodge on a daily basis.

My daughter with her own family later moved to Stoke Lane and brought her sons to Stoke Lodge to play football on a regular basis, gaining access via the footpaths rather than the longer route by road.

My husband and I left the area, but returned some 20 years ago and have walked the footpaths through Stoke Lodge on a regular basis.

We cannot emphasise strongly enough that it is vital to keep the right to use these footpaths and Stoke Lodge playing fields open to the public for Community use.

Christine Porter

10

I have lived at 17a Druid Stoke Avenue for over 30 years and have used the blue footpath which runs diagonally across Stoke Lodge playing field fairly regularly over this period to visit friends living in Canford Lane and Coombe Lane and for walks in the Blaise Castle Estate.
Nicola Cooper

I have been living in Stoke Bishop for nearly fifty years and during this time I have walked from my house in Druid Hill to visit friends and family living in Coombe Bridge Avenue, Grove Road, and more recently in Bell Barn Road. So, using the long right of way across Stoke Lodge in a south-north direction and back has been a regular event in order to make social visits, avoiding use of a car and incidentally getting exercise .

The entrance to Stoke Lodge near my house and the roundabout at the junction of Parry's Lane and Shirehampton Road is also the start of another route leading to the exit at West Dene, which leads to a walk I have regularly made to Canford Park and Westbury village.

I now regularly use the Stoke Lodge paths to avoid the traffic on Shirehampton Road and go to the shops there via the Cheyne Road entrance.

Unsurprisingly, the imposition of a fence erected by Cotham School around the perimeter of the Lodge caused huge inconvenience and annoyance to me as it blocked off access to the routes mentioned above and it is very encouraging that with the TVG status of the Lodge I can now resume my normal routes.

So please do a good job and register the rights of way across the Lodge so that this community can access them all as we have done for so many years.

John Hollyman

This is a statement for the Public Forum in the meeting of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 27th November 2024.

Since 1999 I have lived in Ebenezer Lane, adjacent to Stoke Lodge field, and have found the routes across the field very helpful in shortening the walk between my home, Stoke Lodge house (for courses, events and voting in elections), the shops in Trymwood Parade and Sea Mills station. Most of the residents in Ebenezer Lane and South Dene are elderly and/or disabled, and benefit from the routes across the field shortening the walk to and from various places they want or need to get to.

I support the conclusion of Robin Carr Associates in favour of all of the specified routes across Stoke Lodge field being recorded as public rights of way.

Roderick MacLeod

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I am in full support of the rights of way across Stoke Lodge Playing Field.

I have lived near the Cheynne Road entrance for over 20 years and have used Stoke Lodge regularly since we moved in.

* We would walk our child to Rugby (at Coombe Dingle Sports Centre) from Cheynne Road to the Pavillion on Ebineezer Road every Sunday morning for several years.

* We would walk regularly from Cheynne Road to Parrys Lane on our way to Westbury or the shops at Stoke Lane.

* We would walk from Cheynne Road to the Stoke Hill roundabout on our way to Stoke Bishop.

* We regularly walk from Cheynne Road to the Stoke Hill roundabout as part of a walking route to the Downs. We also use the same route as part of a loop from Sea Mills, along the Avon, through Baddocks Wood and Sneyd Park nature Reserve coming home through Stoke Lodge (Stoke Hill roundabout to Cheynne Road).

* With young children, we used to regularly walk from Cheynne Road across the field to the playground for many years.

* As a scout Leader, we've walked the Scouts from Blaise Estate, over Stoke Lodge (Cheyne Road to Stoke Hill Roundabout) back to our premises on Kewstoke Road, many times over the years.

I have never been challenged when crossing the field although access was clearly frustrated when Cotham installed their 2m perimeter fence.

Please registers these paths as rights of way.

Kind Regards

Jon kennedy

14

Sir/ Madam

I was born in Reedley Road 77 years ago and Stoke Lodge fields were a favourite place for me and my three siblings to play.

We regularly used the footpaths and the legal rights of way to visit relatives and friends and of course to access XIV school.

Currently I have a sibling living in Sea Mills Lane so living in Coombe Lane, so these Rights of Way via West Dean enable ease of access.

It would be a crime to withdraw these historical facilities - they are cast in bronze RIGHTS!

Yours faithfully

Robin Parker

Public Rights Of Way And Greens Committee, Bristol City Council

Re. Claimed footpaths at Stoke Lodge Fields, Stoke Bishop

STATEMENT OF ANTHONY REDDIFORD

1. I live at 21 Rayleigh Road, BS9 2AU and have done so for 7 years.
2. I use Stoke Lodge Fields and, in particular, claimed routes 2 and 4 and have done so (for periods when the perimeter fence did not obstruct my route – when I used claimed route 4) since November 2017.
3. I use route 2 to walk from my home to the shops on Shirehampton Road and back along the same route. Whilst other routes are available to me (Bell Barn Road) I much prefer to avoid use of roads partly because the route through Stoke Lodge is much more pleasant and partly so that my dog can be off the lead for at least a part of the walk.
4. I use claimed route 4 as part a circular route around Stoke Lodge Fields when walking my dog or running for exercise.
5. I have used claimed routes 1 and 3 when running for exercise and/or walking my dog but less frequently than I have used routes 2 and 4.
6. When using claimed routes 2 and 4 I frequently (more often than not) see others using the same routes.
7. The only time that I have seen the routes obstructed was during the period when the green perimeter fence was present around the fields between c. 2020 and 2023. Route 3 was no obstructed when the fence was present.
8. I confirm that the contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed



dated

20/11/2024

Dear PROW Committee.

Please find this email in reference to the importance of the continued ability to use the public rights of way through Stoke Lodge.

As a local family with young children, we use these routes on a very regular basis.

My two daughters, my husband and I access Stoke Lodge on a daily basis to go from our house on Bell Barn Road to Stoke Bishop C of E Primary School. (Using the entrance at Cheyne Road and going across to the Adult Education centre.)

This route provides a safe way for children to walk and cycle their bikes to school which avoids the busy junction at the end of Bell Barn Road and Shirehampton Road.

Not only is it the safest route for them to travel, it greatly increases their mental wellbeing for the day by travelling through green, open space with fresh air. It has a hugely positive impact on how they arrive at school and their mindset for the day.

We use the same route in reverse on the way home.

I also use the full length of Stoke Lodge on my travel to and from work, walking from Bell Barn Road to Parry's Lane. Again, this is a safe way for me to walk but also allows me to relax and decompress after work or prepare to go into work.

It is vital for local families that all PROW across Stoke Lodge are protected for use now and for the generations to come.

Thank you for reading my statement.
Larissa Wilton

I have crossed Stoke Lodge having used all these routes on my walking travels since 1975, almost 50 years ago. However my most used route has been from the Druid Hill roundabout directly down the grounds to Cheyne Road. My purpose on this route was to continue across Bell Barn Road to visit friends in the area or to drop into the path directly opposite into Combe Dingle in order to follow several different routes over the years to Kings Weston, Blaise or left to the river Avon where I could walk alongside its banks. Many times latterly I have turned left from the exit at Cheyne Road of the Lodge grounds to walk along Stoke Paddock Road to purchase from the shops or enjoy a coffee/ meal at the Shirehampton Road cafe.

I also turn off right from this path towards the pavilion exit to walk along West Dene, through the University playing fields, through Canford Cemetery, across Canford Park to Westbury on Trym for a coffee and light shopping.

20 Years ago, my daughter and family moved into Bell Barn Road which is directly across the Stoke Lodge grounds from our house. I was heavily involved in childcare as both parents worked long and late shifts. I used the Druid Hill to Cheyne Road path as a direct route to and from her house. My husband and I share a car so I was able to walk directly, and safely, allowing him the use of the car.

When my grandchildren reached the years of developing independence and freedom, they were allowed to come from their home in Bellbarn Road, up across the Stoke Lodge path where I would wait for them at the wall, watching them cartwheel up at times, and take them safely across the Druid Hill roundabout roads. Unfortunately when Cotham School fenced off the land they blocked this route. My granddaughter, now older, uses this off road, safe route from Bell Barn Road to Druid Hill then down Hollybush Lane to meet her friend in Reedley Road and vice versa.

More recently I have also used the route across Stoke Lodge grounds, avoiding traffic, to turn off left at the carved oak to reach the Adult Learning Centre where I enjoy my weekly Spanish class. A few years ago I similarly walked this route to enjoy a research class on ancestry.

I am now 80 years of age and value these safe routes very much.

Susan Hollyman

Public Forum Statement by Alan Preece (Applicant)
For the Bristol City Council, Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee Meeting.
On Wednesday, 27th November 2024. Agenda item 4. - Public Forum.

Re: - Public Rights of Way on Stoke Lodge, Stoke Bishop, BS9 2BN.

I wish to thank the committee for this special meeting to consider my application which has been before the Council for 7 years, also the PROW Team for their guidance in the process, and the appointed Inspector Robin Carr for a very thorough examination and supportive recommendation.

During this process I have been struck by the universal support from everyone locally that I have met who are all desperate to protect the access to the shortcuts along safe and pleasant tracks to the local shops, buses and other amenities surrounding Stoke Bishop.

Although not an event within the core period of my application, we were all hugely and disappointingly deprived during the Covid crisis, when Cotham who had no use for the field, refused even the meagre opening hours of normal times via the access points through their fence, which even so appear to have been deliberately sited to not coincide with the pathways we are claiming.

This was not mitigated by the provision of something laughingly called the “circular track” which was not maintained and exceedingly dangerous in the winter for the non-fleet-of-foot members of the population. Several accidents occurred from falling down in the mud, including to me.

Cotham in their abstruse and verbose legal arguments are really obscuring the main points of the application and are effectively accusing all the witnesses of lying. They have conflated arguments regarding TVG applications in the past. They have also once again (previously in the TVG Public Inquiry) used Google Earth sequences to show the apparent absence of trackways, but I know from my son’s farm that even a well-used footpath from a busy campsite across his field does not show on Google Earth, because like Stoke Lodge, it is regularly cultivated and mown – but it is on the OS map. Two years of drought clearly showed the tracks on Stoke Lodge when the grass turned yellow in straight lines.

This has all arisen because Cotham School has not wanted to adhere to the terms of its lease, which provides for ‘all existing rights and use, including use by the community’ to continue. Mr. Carr has identified these routes as part of those existing rights, but still Cotham wants to object and take yet more legal action. Cotham School will never respect public access in line with its lease, so please would you register the routes for permanent public use, by accepting the recommendations of the Inspector and the PROW team.

I would also ask you to reject the appeal by Cotham to delay any decision until after the pending TVG court appeal, particularly as the application has been many years in consideration, and as it has always been impressed on me, that TVG and PROW are very different matters.

In August 1990, my family moved from Canterbury, to a new house in Coombe Lane. One sunny afternoon soon after, I took my five year old son to explore the local shops; we set off along Bell Barn Road and soon reached a main road junction, with The Mill House Pub and a Petrol Station on one corner and storage sheds for an adjacent Dress shop on the other, both bustling with vehicles coming and going. We went into Lloyds Bank first to get some cash (still essential back then) and whilst chatting to the Manager, I mentioned the busy road we had just ventured down and how I thought it rather intimidating. He quickly explained an alternative route via Stoke Lodge, telling me it was a preferred route for locals – so we gave it a try on our return journey home.

After that day it quickly became the preferred route to visit Shirehampton Road Shops, including a Video rental store and later the Veterinary Surgery, as well as a neighbouring Pet Shop for our puppy (born in 1993).

The shops on Stoke Hill had other attractions including a friendly Barber shop for my young son; a small Post Office and an old fashioned Hardware store. There was also a large Garage and MoT station; all conveniently within walking distance across the field.

We discovered the bus service on Shirehampton Road was far more reliable than the Coombe Lane route after finding ourselves stranded in the Centre whilst shopping for our first Christmas in Bristol. Our bus had been diverted to another route without warning and unfortunately (as newcomers) we couldn't identify an alternative and not a taxi to be had anywhere – we got home eventually, frozen stiff and vowing to boycott the bus route that had left us stranded.

I have continued to use the well trodden routes across Stoke Lodge for more than thirty years and during this time, have witnessed others doing much the same – A toddler practicing his first faltering steps across the parkland with Dad in-tow; a boisterous young family looking for signs of nature and delighting in naming bird song as they stroll along; a wobbly bike ride for a young child, setting off with Mum to meet a sibling at the local school gates and older children crossing the field on their way to and from senior school. However; it's not just the young who have benefited but our elderly and disabled too and because we all value safe access to and from local shops etc; we are asking for long-term protection now.

In conclusion, it is evident that this Community had established "Rights of Way" long before Cotham School took over use of the Parkland circa 2002. However, even at that time, a concerned local (retired PE Teacher) questioned why the School appeared to prefer the indoor facilities at Coombe Dingle Complex, rarely visiting the parkland except for casual sport. The School management also knew of ongoing public access, before agreeing to the terms of their Lease signed 2011; indeed BCC as land owner had acquiesced for decades and importantly no official complaints concerning trespass and no new signage until 2018; so disingenuous to do so at a later date to justify fencing.

Please ensure continued public access to this much loved community asset, by granting "Public right of Way" for all requested routes across Stoke Lodge. Similar measures have been successfully implemented on other school playing fields and so will not impinge on Cothams future sports use, if they choose to return.

S. J Mayer (Mrs)

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to state how important I think it is that Stoke Lodge remains unfenced and available to the wider public in the locale. Those defending this have, at all times, taken a reasonable position, and been willing to share the facility with Cotham School. I am informed that this is entirely in line with Ofsted guidance, and that there are numerous examples around the country where this already takes place.

By contrast I have been very concerned how Cotham School have represented their position throughout - not least the costing of the fence, and an attempt to use video recordings when advised otherwise by the police, amongst many other occurrences.

At a time of very limited funding in the public sector, it seems extraordinary to me that the school have decided to use large sums to try to gain exclusive control of Stoke Lodge fields, when those nearby have always been willing to share the facility.

Parts of Bristol Council have not covered themselves in glory either; particularly when they were arguing against their own democratically arrived at decision. I would be interested to know what lies underneath this extraordinary behaviour(?).

Yours,
Stewart Geddes

Dear Sir, Madam, Committee,

I am writing this statement in advance of the Extraordinary, Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee being held on Wednesday, 27th November 2024 2.00 pm to strongly support registering all four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge. We (myself, my wife and our 3 children) have lived at our address over 10 years and regularly use all four routes described to access shops, go to work or school, visit friends, visit local leisure places and facilities. I note also these same routes are used regularly by a large cross section of the public.

The experience in past years of being fenced out was a massive inconvenience and during the winter / autumn months what little footpaths there were around the fence became a muddy quagmire and a hazard to users.

Many thanks for considering this statement,

Best Regards, Chris, Emma, William, Isla and Maria Law

Dear Sir,

I wish on behalf of our household to submit our support for registering paths on the Stoke Lodge Village Green.

My elderly mother (born 1937) who now lives with us, would hugely benefit from safe paths to cross the green, as part of her health and wellbeing regime as recommended by her Physio.

Under the previous regime (with a fence in place), the paths that were around the edge of the green were unsafe for her to use and they were extremely slippery and narrow in the winter, and overgrown with nettles in the warmer months. These paths were unusable for her, and were difficult for us to use too.

With safe footpaths in place, it will be much easier to get from our house to the local amenities such as the shops, hairdressers and pharmacy.

We therefore ask that you consider favourably the request to instate these paths for the benefit of the entire community, but particularly for those who are elderly and vulnerable.

Kind regards, Helen, and Neil Sachdev.

23

Dear Sir/madam

Please can we make sure that the public rights of way over Stoke Lodge are recorded and registered.

I use these when I travel from where I live in Stoke Bishop across to Blaise Castle.

It was painful when the fence was still up as I had to go all around it, as such please can we register these long-standing public rights of way.

Many thanks.

Kind regards

Rob Crews

To the Committee,

It is essential that the 4 public Rights of Way across Stoke Lodge should be registered. I have used these paths since 1984 to go to shops & to take friends for a walk. They are a great benefit to the local people.

Kind regards Dorothy Nunn

I write in support of the application to grant Public Rights of Way across the land of Stoke Lodge.

When I graduated in 1967 I was offered a job in the Civil Service and was told I could choose to work in any city in the country where there were government offices.

I chose to work in Bristol as it has ready access to more National Parks and AONB than any other city and had more green spaces within it than many other cities.

When I married in 1973 my wife and I purchased a sheet street map where green spaces were indeed shown in green and we purchased our first home in Sea Mills due to the close proximity of many green recreational spaces, including Stoke Lodge. In 1981 with a young family we moved closer to Stoke Lodge and purchased a house in Woodland Grove, conscious that Stoke Lodge provided a valuable recreational asset.

In the subsequent 43 years we have walked and played across Stoke Lodge countless times. We have used every one of the access points and routes shown in blue, yellow, red, and green, (and others not shown) in every possible combination, innumerable times.

Most of my usage has been simply for recreation as Stoke Lodge provided me and my family with a "green lung". I have however made specific use of these routes to access Stoke Lodge adult learning centre, to attend events at my children's primary school in Cedar Park, and to take an off-road short cut from Stoke Hill to West Dene or Cheyne Road.

I was greatly annoyed when my children's former secondary school built a fence around Stoke Lodge playing field as it restricted my access to what I had always believed to be Public Rights Of Way that did not need to be specifically demarcated as they were in the public ownership of the City and County of Bristol.

It now seems that in order to ensure that the public, and particularly the citizens of Bristol, continue to have unfettered access to these PROW we need them to be designated as such on the Definitive Map.

I therefore add my voice in support of this.

Peter Hobbs

My husband has written a detailed response in support of the application to grant Public Rights of Way across the land of Stoke Lodge.

I would like to add my support and urge the committee to approve this application for the benefit of the citizens of Bristol and general public.

Yours Sincerely

Ghyslaine Hobbs

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to affirm that the Village Green status should remain in place so that the public rights of ways over Stoke Lodge can be recorded and maintained and that the fencing previously erected is not allowed to be re-erected.

I often use Stoke Lodge as a way of walking to houses of friends in the Ormerod Road area of Stoke Bishop. From my house in Bell Barn Road, I enter Stoke Lodge at the Cheyne Road entrance and walk across the Green to the far right hand corner exiting by the mini roundabout at the junction of Shirehampton Road / Parrys Lane / Druid Hill. From there I walk down Druid Hill and make my way through various paths to the Ormerod Road area.

When the fence was erected I was not able to do this and had to follow a narrow and at times an almost impassable muddy pathway ranging from 2 metres+ in width down to a couple of feet with nettles and brambles. This was most restrictive and an alternative route had to be used.

The rights of way should be open and unfettered to all. I do hope you will take my statement into account when arriving at your decision.

Thank you

Tony Beckingsale

Stoke Lodge Public Rights of Way

Dear Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the application to register various 'rights of way' across Stoke Lodge.

I walk across Stoke Lodge several times a week (about 5 times) as I visit friends who live in the road called West Dene. My usual route from my home is to walk along Hollybush Lane and enter Stoke Lodge from the entrance near the mini roundabout. I then walk across Stoke Lodge and leave at the entrance by West Dene Road.

I return to my house using the same route as it avoids the traffic and busy roads.

About once to twice a week I walk to Coombe Dingle and Blaise castle for a lengthy walk.

I follow the same route from my home but instead of leaving Stoke Lodge by West Dene I leave by the exit to Cheyne Road. This route takes me across the middle of Stoke Lodge. I return using the same route.

At the moment this route is easy and well used but it was not like this when the fence was erected.

At this time Cotham School had erected a fence and access to the field was only possible through one of four gates.

Cotham School claimed that these gates were unlocked (electronic locks in use) during daytime hours, but this was not always the case. It was not unusual to find that your entry gate was locked, or even more frustratingly, your exit gate was locked requiring you to retrace your steps to find a way out. Contact with the school to ask why usually solicited the response that the gates were always unlocked, which was not the case, or that something must have gone wrong with the locks.

Consequently, this meant that transiting the field was extremely difficult. Thankfully, now that the fence has been largely dismantled, it is easy to take the path across the field.

I therefore strongly support the application to register the various paths as 'rights of way.'

This should allow all the existing users, including myself, to continue to use them without any impediment.

It would also protect them for future users such as my grandchildren. I have walked across Stoke Lodge since I was a child. When I had my own children I have walked across it with them and now I am walking across it with my grandchildren.

It is important that we should not allow commercial interests to usurp the public desires and rights to use a footpath.

Yours faithfully,
Elizabeth Baker (E R BAKER MRS)

Good evening,

For more than 60 years my Mum and I have crossed Stoke Lodge from all routes, but I write specifically about the access from near her house in West Dene to where it meets Shirehampton Road. Our use has been to walk to what used to be the doctor's on Shirehampton Road, to past and present shops, to the vet's and to Sea Mills railway station. This walk became especially important when Mum reached her 80s. We would walk across the field, have a rest on the seats by the house, then walk down the road to the shops before returning for another rest and a little picnic, before walking back across the field. Mum could manage this and loved it.

Then the fence went up as Mum approached 90. We attempted to walk round the field on the slippery walkway and found ourselves in a position where she couldn't go forward and she couldn't go back. Thankfully a lady stopped to help me get Mum safely through the undergrowth onto the existing path there and back to West Dene. Mum was really shaken and she was frightened to try it again, so we didn't. We were told to leave the University fields on the other side of Coombe Lane when we tried walking there instead and so that was it, until the fence came down at Stoke Lodge.

Since the fence was removed Mum, now 95, has been able to go through the gate, walk to our favorite seat outside the house at Stoke lodge, have a juice and a kitkat and then walk back to West Dene. We can walk from her house with her great children to the play area near the Stoke Lodge house and she can sit in the sun and watch us playing. If the fence goes back up that will be impossible (again). All the vital years as she was becoming more frail, we missed doing this simple activity because we were prohibited by a six foot fence. I honestly wonder if she would have been this frail had she not had to stop her regular walks for a number of years because of that fence. Walking is vital for all, it is especially important if you are elderly, but it has to be safe and it has to be joyful and, in that way, has enormous benefits for mental and physical health, no matter how old you are.

Please, please register the paths we have walked for over 60 years as public rights of way, so everyone, no matter if they are toddlers or near centenarians can enjoy this beautiful open space. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Corfield

30

Dear Sir/madam,

I regularly use the routes across stoke lodge, either to enjoy the green space with its trees, or to visit friends in Stoke Paddock Road accessing the park from parry's lane/shirehampton road.

Yours Elizabeth Warbutton

Dear Sirs

I used to walk my children to Stoke Bishop Primary School when they were young and at the same time exercise my dog. I would often use the entrance in Cheyne Road and walk right up the middle of the field to the exit at the top of the field. I would often walk around the perimeter of the field with several other dog walkers. This was felt that it was a public right of way and should remain so. Everyone needs green spaces and this area is the only available now in the area; all others have been built on.

Regards
Mrs Gabrielle Huggins

FAO Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee 27th November 2024

We are encouraged to note the Officer's report recommends that public rights of way across Stoke Lodge playing field - currently a Village Green - be recorded and write in support of this recommendation.

Having lived in Stoke Bishop for 33 years we have been pleased to use these rights of way on a frequent and regular basis. To say we were dismayed and frustrated to be denied freedom of access by the erection of an unsightly and somewhat intimidating fence would be a huge understatement. The replacement track around the fence perimeter was often muddy, slippery and overgrown and did not present in any way a safe and suitable alternative.

Over the years the rights of way across the field have enabled us to make foot journeys from our home in the Kewstoke Road area to Coombe Dingle, to the shops on Shirehampton Road to Shirehampton Station and to friends in Westbury on Trym without always having to walk alongside a busy road or the enclosed alleyway/footpath beyond Ebenezer Lane.

Moreover we are able now to walk unhindered with our young grandchildren to visit the playground whenever they visit.

On a general level we note the frequency with which these rights of way are used by parents taking and fetching children to school in Cedar Park - a safer more direct and altogether more pleasant route than Shirehampton Road and which no doubt avoids use of cars.

Since the granting of Village Green status some 18 months ago it has been a great benefit to us once again to be able to enjoy these routes unencumbered.

We therefore hope that the Officer's recommendation is upheld by the Committee

Peter & Janet Sears

33

Dear Sir or Madam

I lived with my family in Stoke Bishop since 1978 finally leaving last March 2024.

During this whole period until 2010 we enjoyed as a right without interruption full unhindered access to use the footpaths 1 to 4 as shown in Robin Carr's excellent report and associated documents. The footpaths offer a significant and very helpful range of specific shortcuts for our family walking to visit friends, schools, shops, bus services, dentist, GP, public house, at the start of longer walks to the woods, to the Downs and into the City. To use them was also relaxing, healthier and less risky than using the longer routes along pavements bordering busy polluted local roads and we avoided using our car.

I remember when we first moved into Stoke Bishop the friendly groundsman then employed told us access was unrestricted; he was keen to prevent vehicles gaining access though. To this end he had installed a stile, a kissing gate and simple unobstructed openings in the boundary hedges and fences. I remember these were narrowed to keep out the occasional motorbike but not walkers. I note that this point is supported in pages 47/48 of the agenda papers; see letter from Mr Blackmore [Avon Authority] and a press report dated January 1990. There will be Police records of complaints about this type of occasional antisocial activity on the fields.

I do not remember seeing any signage restricting access at any entry/exit points. The only signage that appeared was in 2010 when the fields were seized, barriers and chained gates built and the local community excluded.

People are only now going back to their old ways of using the fields and paths prior to Covid and the exclusion methods introduced.

We also enjoyed unrestricted access to the fields for every sort of leisure and sporting activities, community events and nationwide celebrations....the last one I recall was a Millenium party when all local children were presented with locally made dated pottery mugs, we still have ours! These really brought the 'locals' together. Access was totally unrestricted for those using the fields and the footpaths.

We never had to make any booking, there were no 'rules' to follow. I remember being told by older residents they had been free to use the marvellous space and footpaths across it for over 45 years totally unrestricted.

I believe the coming generations should also have the access we enjoyed so very much.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen D Abbotts

Statement to the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee

For the meeting on **Wednesday 27th November 2024**. From: Stephanie French.

Subject: Claimed footpaths · West Dene to Stoke Lodge (Shirehampton Road), · Cheyne Rd (Stoke Paddock Road) to Druid Hill, · Cheyne Rd (Stoke Paddock Road) to Stoke Lodge (Shirehampton Road), · Cheyne Rd (Stoke Paddock Road) to West Dene, Stoke Bishop

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write in support of the request that these well used routes for pedestrians be made public rights of way.

I have used all of these routes across the Parkland for the purpose of getting from Shirehampton Road and Druid Hill to other parts of Stoke Bishop where my friends live/lived (one has moved away recently). I have lived near the centre of Stoke Bishop Village – close by Druid Fountain – since 2006.

The routes I have used most frequently are:

From Druid Hill to West Dene via Stoke Lodge (the paths cross),
and from Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre (Shirehampton Road) to West Dene.

The route that exits at West Dene bisects Ebenezer Lane upon arrival at West Dene, so it gives a vital link to another access route, providing a way to get to Bell Barn Road and Cross Elms Lane.

In addition to providing access for me to friends the other side of the Village, I have used the routes to check up on the magnificent trees that grace the Parkland, being the Tree Champion for Stoke Bishop since 2010. I use them to criss cross the area from the Adult Learning Centre to the perimeter of the Parkland to keep an eye on the trees that fringe the Parkland. I have tended to use the routes that are shown on the map, rather than wander about the field, because these are the most direct routes between the access points I have used, and they give access to the major trees on the perimeter.

In the years when the routes were blocked by The Fence it all became very difficult. In good weather it was possible, though lengthy, to make a circuit of the Field around The Fence, but during, and following, poor weather this was dangerous, as the ground became water logged and slippery following the passage of many people over it. Inevitably we resorted to using our cars driving the long way around on the roads, as this was safer though less environmentally friendly. The fact that the ground became impassable very quickly just showed how many people were using the routes across the Field, which we should like to become paths.

One of the claimed footpaths was at one time the driveway from Stoke Lodge House to West Dene where the House had an entrance/exit. You can see that this is so because old maps (available to inspect on KnowYourPlace) show the drive and also show the Lodge House at the Parkland boundary on West Dene – now called Stoke Lodge Cottage. This is shown on the 1844 and 1894 Ordnance Survey maps. When the House was sold to the Council in 1947, and thus came into public ownership, I would guess that it became one of the main public routes to the Village from the northern part of Stoke Bishop, and even more so when the House became the Adult Education Centre in 1980 as this was the route to the House and Shirehampton Road and the Village facilities from the north.

On a damp and chilly day last October I was on the Field looking at a tree at the request of a resident, and I was delighted and cheered to see a father taking his two children to Stoke Bishop Primary School (Cedar Park), walking across the Field from West Dene to Shirehampton Road. It was lovely to see after the years of the Fence. They had not had to go the long way around on the busy roads where it is not safe – and if they had had to do that, they would more likely have travelled by car.

If walkers using the routes see a games match in progress on one of the pitches they walk around the pitch – they do not cross the pitch. This is normal out of common courtesy.

Neil Phillips
124 parry's Lane
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS6 6NA

20/11/24

Dear Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to grant Public Rights of Way to the footpaths across Stoke Lodge fields and surrounding areas. As a local resident (last house on Parry's Lane), I believe this initiative will bring significant benefits to our community.

The establishment of a Public Rights of Way across Stoke Lodge will:

- **Enhance accessibility** by provide safe and convenient access for pedestrians (including children), cyclists, and individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and mobility for all members of our community.
- **Promote safety** by designating a vehicular free pathway, we can reduce the risk of accidents and improve overall safety for everyone (including children) who uses these paths compared to busy public roads.
- **Encourage active lifestyles** by encourage more people to walk or cycle, contributing to healthier lifestyles and reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

I believe that granting this Public Right of Way aligns with our community's values and long-term goals. It represents a commitment to creating a more connected, safe, and vibrant environment for all, residents and visitors.

For years, I was able to walk from my house to local shops (e.g. on Shirehampton Road) without issue. Then Cotham School staff told me to "get off Cotham property" when I was walking across the empty field. Cottam School then completely blocked all access by erecting their fence. The locked gate stated:



I repeatedly contacted Cotham School over several years requesting 'Express Permission' to walk across Stoke Lodge field, but permission was **never** granted. When I raised the issue of Cotham School blocking public access with Bristol City Council, I was told by Cotham not to bother the Council.

I urge you to consider this proposal favourably and take the necessary steps to register the paths across Stoke Lodge as Public Rights of Way. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely
Neil Phillips

Dear Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application to register the four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge. My family and I use these paths extensively, particularly the route from Parry's Lane to Cheyne Road, which is an essential part of our daily routines.

These paths provide a safe and direct means of travel, allowing us to walk to my mother's house without the need to navigate a longer and more hazardous route that crosses multiple main roads. The convenience and safety of these paths cannot be overstated, as they connect vital parts of our community and support active travel.

The obstructive fence previously in place was a source of significant frustration for us, as it disrupted these important routes and forced us to take far less practical alternatives.

I urge the Committee to register these routes to ensure they remain accessible for everyone in the community. These paths are not just rights of way; they are lifelines that enhance connectivity, safety, and the quality of life for many residents.

Thank you for considering this application.

Kind regards,
Daniel Mason

Dear Councillors

Re. Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting – Wednesday 27 November 2024

I am writing to urge you to act upon the recommendations of both the independent consultant, and the officer's report to your committee and grant registration of all four footpaths.

I have lived at the top of Shirehampton Road for thirteen years. In order to enjoy the beautiful green space that is Stoke Lodge Village Green, I use one of the footpaths regularly to walk to Bell Barn Road to visit a friend and my Dentist. I also chose to use this green walk to collect medications from the Vet, just around the corner from Bell Barn Road.

During the years after Cotham Academy erected their fence, I was hugely frustrated by being forced to walk, during the winter months, along a very muddy, narrow strip of land around the perimeter fence. The school did not maintain the pathway. This was no way for a school to treat the community and, even given my advanced years, I was happy to take part in the many community efforts to place bark on the paths in order to make them safe.

It has taken seven years for these applications to reach your committee. Please take the right action and grant registration of all four footpaths.

Yours sincerely
Felicity Pine

1. My name is Sharon Elizabeth Parsons and I currently live at Old Sneed Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, BS9 1ET.
2. I have lived near Stoke Lodge since 1971 and have many memories over the past 50 years of time spent at Stoke Lodge.
3. As a teenager, I gained access to Stoke Lodge by climbing over the wall by the roundabout at the top of Druid Hill.
4. I used to walk across Stoke Lodge to visit a friend on Coombe Lane. I would exit at West Dene.
5. I used to walk across Stoke Lodge to visit a friend on Bell Barn Road. I would walk through the exit to Cheyne Road.
6. As an adult I still use these rights of way across Stoke Lodge, and access Stoke Lodge by the uneven entrance close to the mini roundabout at the top of Druid Hill.
7. The only time I was prevented from using these rights of way was when Cotham School erected a fence in 2019.
8. I divert around these routes if sport is being played on Stoke Lodge.
9. I fully support the Committee in granting the rights of way.

Kind regards

Sharon Parsons

We have lived in Stoke Bishop for more than 50 years, and in all that time have used several foot paths across the playing fields, mostly from Parrys Lane to Woodland Grove, but sometimes from Parrys Lane to Bell Barn Road, to visit friends. It makes a very pleasant and sometimes shorter walk, and it has been hard going to have to traipse round the fence erected by Cotham School despite OFSTED not requiring its erection, and the terms of the Lease allowing us, we thought, full access. We do hope our old favourite routes can now be safeguarded.

Anthea and Reginald Davey

Chris and Alyson Woodford.
9 Woodland Grove
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 2BD.

21 Nov 2024.

To:

BCC Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee, regarding an application for public rights of way at Stoke Lodge Fields, Stoke Bishop.

We strongly support the current application for public rights of way to be granted at Stoke Lodge Fields, Stoke Bishop.

The proposed footpath routes in the application currently provide us with significantly shorter routes to local amenities compared to road side pavements routes.

For example, we use the current routes to walk from home to;

- the local shops and services on Trymwood Parade,
- the bus services on Shirehampton Road,
- the Stoke Lodge educational offerings,
- the polling station at Stoke Lodge.

If the routes were obstructed, maybe with a fence, we would need to use our car more frequently due to the increased distance. This of course leads to more pollution and noise.

Furthermore, the proposed footpath routes provide shorter routes for pupils attending Stoke Bishop Primary School and have the attendant benefits of being traffic free and reducing exposure to vehicle pollution. These benefits would be lost if the current route is obstructed.

Chris and Alyson Woodford.

41

Hello,

I would like to submit the following statement to the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting on Wednesday, 27th November.

Alan

[illegible]

My wife and I live half a mile away from Stoke Lodge playing fields, and have lived there for the last 40 years. We have used the route shown on the map from point D to point B for recreational walks numerous times over the years, as it is a convenient route as part of a number of circular walks. We would value the continued unobstructed use of the route.

Alan Morris

Chair & Committee members

I have the following comment to make on item 5 on the agenda for above meeting.

I previously lived on Shirehampton Road for almost 20 years and now live in Queens Gate. During this time in both homes I have walked from my house and used the footpath from Stoke Lodge to West Dene to visit a friend who lives off Coombe Lane. This is a wonderful short cut rather than walking either or down or up Shirehampton Road in order to get to Coombe Lane.

I believe I completed one of your forms some years ago submitted by Professor Alan Preece.

Judith Young

SUPPORT FOR REGISTERING THE PROPOSED RIGHTS OF WAY ON STOKE LODGE

We are writing to again support the registration of these Rights of Way on Stoke Lodge. Having lived for more than 30 years by the West Dene entrance we and our children have freely used the paths for many reasons including

- Accessing the shops on Shirehampton road and by Stoke Bishop Village Hall,
- Going to Adult Education Classes at Stoke Lodge
- Regular Bridge evenings at Stoke Bishop Village Hall
- Accessing the Trym and Blaise through Cheyne Road avoiding most roads – good for young children
- Playing organised games (Shire Colts) and informal ones.

As has been said many times access was never questioned and the paths were well trod until disrupted by the fence.

I am sure the Committee will want to support the Inspector's view that there is no reason for not registering these footpaths as Rights of Way.

Yours

Andrew and Catherine Barnes

To whom it may concern

I support the application for the rights of way at Stoke Lodge.

I have used the paths for many years from West Dene to Stoke Lodge to attend courses there. Also, the path from West Dene to the corner near the mini roundabout to go to the shops and the bus stop. Also, down to Cheyne Road to access the shops there.

Yours sincerely

Mrs P Lemon

My name is Helen Day. From 1985 to 1993, I resided on Cheyne Road.

During my teenage years, I frequently utilised Stoke Lodge for recreational purposes and access to other roads in the locality. I would often walk from Cheyne Road, proceed straight to the far end, and exit at Parrys Lane to visit friends' houses near the old dairy and on Reedley Road.

Additionally, I would use the exit at the Adult Learning Centre and walk the final part of Shirehampton Road to see friends on Druid Hill. Naturally, they would make the same journey in reverse to visit me.

Walking through Stoke Lodge was far more enjoyable than walking along a road, and even as a teenager, I could appreciate the incredible open space. Many others must have felt the same way, as it appeared to be a popular route.

Less frequently, I would use the exit at West Dene to cut through to Canford Park and the shops. I feel very fortunate to have lived near such a wonderful open space and I sincerely hope that this access and pathways through Stoke Lodge continue to be available for residents in and around the area.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Day

PROW Committee meeting 27 November 2024

CLAIMED FOOTPATHS AT STOKE LODGE FIELDS, STOKE BISHOP

Public Forum statement in support of Registration

We are Jenny and Peter Weeks living at Druid Road, Stoke Bishop, BS9 1LH which is about 700 metres from Stoke Lodge.

We regularly use one of the footpaths under consideration at this PROW meeting. The footpath in question is the one that goes from the SE corner of Stoke Lodge straight across the field to the entrance on to Cheyne Road (the footpath marked in blue on the *pinpoint map for applicant AWP5*). We usually enter Stoke Lodge at the SE corner where there is an entrance from Parrys Lane, we walk across the parkland to Cheyne Road and then continue our walk going down to the River Trym and on towards Sea Mills Harbour. Ever since we came to live here 33 years ago, this has been and still is one of our favourite recreation walks. While the fence was up of course we were prevented from enjoying this our regular walking route and we are pleased that the fence has gone.

In 33 years of using this path regularly since 1991, at no time have there been any signs or notices at either entrance saying that walking across Stoke Lodge is not allowed; that access on foot is forbidden or restricted; that this is not a footpath; or that Stoke Lodge is private.

This footpath is often used by other local residents as part of a recreational walking route. On any day you can see people walking from Cheyne Road to Parry's Lane, and vice versa.

We ask the Committee to register this footpath as a Public Right of Way.

When I was little I moved to Druid Hill, Stoke Bishop with my parents. I moved to Bell Barn Road in 2006 with my husband and had my children. I live close to the end of Cheyne Road.

I use the blue route marked on Stoke Lodge from Cheyne Road to Parry's Lane to visit my parents as it is a pleasant shortcut. When my son was born in 2006 we would walk that route to visit them pushing my son in the pram. We'd lift the pram up the gap to get onto the footpath on Parrys Lane. I had my daughter in 2007. My use continued as the children grew taking the children to see their grandparents or going up to see them. When family visit (my brother and his family) we meet at Mums and often walk through Stoke Lodge from Parrys Lane entrance down to Cheyne Road in a family group for supper at ours.

More recently I have used the same route to walk up (and back) and visit my parents for a cuppa and a chat. Sometimes I walk up so that we can go from their house out to lunch. The last time I used it was on Nov 19th 2024 to go to supper at my parents with my husband and my daughter. We all walked back through Stoke Lodge under the full moon.

I also use the route from Cheyne Road to the play park direction to vote as Stoke Lodge House is my local polling station.

This travel route use is separate to my use of Stoke Lodge for meeting friends on the lodge for a drink or picnic, jogging or walking my dogs.

I feel it is important to formally recognise these historic routes that connect our community and families.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Evans

I live in South Dene and when our 5 children were at Stoke Bishop C of E Primary school during the 1980s our route to and from school was via the Red route from West Dene to Stoke Lodge house. We continue to use this route to take our grandchildren to the play area adjacent to Stoke Lodge House.

As a child, myself, in the fifties living at 11 Cedar Park I would regularly use the Red route to visit friends in West Dene. The path in those days went through the side garden of the cottage at the end of West Dene. I believe that was where the groundsman used to live. When the land dries out in hot summers the outline of this footpath can clearly be seen under the grass.

The Red route footpath was well established before the fifties and as far as I'm concerned continues to be our route to the Shirehampton Road bus stop and shops.

I urge the committee to uphold my right to continue to use this footpath, as I have done since the early fifties.

Malcolm Davies

To Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee (PROW)

In regard to Application for Routes 1, 2, 3 & 4 at Stoke Lodge Fields, Stoke Bishop, Bristol to be authorised as Public Footpaths by Definition Map Modification Order as set out in the Agenda to PROW meeting on Wed 27 November 2024

I am writing to ask the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee to strongly recommend your approval to authorise the Definitive Map Modification Order to show the routes 1, 2, 3 & 4 as set out on the agenda for the meeting.

I and my family have personally used the route from our house on Parrys Lane to Cheyne Road and back (and onward to cross Bell Barn Road) and reach the banks of the River Trym and thence to walk into the Blaise Castle or Kingsweston estates on numerous occasions over the past 40 years since we moved to live on Parrys Lane in 1985.

We have used the West Dene route to Shirehampton Road and back to attend classes at the Adult Education Classes at Stoke Lodge. More recently we have used Ebenezer Lane and the route across from West Dene with our grandchildren over the last five years to reach both the play park and the shops on Shirehampton Road to buy snacks for the grandchildren.

Regrettably at times Cotham School have closed the fence gates at West Dene and or at Stoke Lodge making our journey around the perimeter of the fence along the bottom of the field. This happened so often and the perimeter outside the fence was so well used that it became very muddy and difficult to traverse with a buggy thanks to the gate closure.

Please approve the route crossing from West Dene to Shirehampton Road via the Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre now the fence has been removed to avoid any repeat of others scrambling through the muddy mess at the bottom on a narrow path outside the fence where the rainwater can sometimes collect.

Another of our regular walks from home at Parrys Lane to Sea Mills harbour to watch the highest tides come in and out would include walking down from West Dene through to Stoke Paddock Road. With a return trip along Stoke Paddock Road up Cheyne Road and across to West Dene to meet Ebenezer Lane and thence home. In more recent times a weekly visit to my housebound cousin in Sea Mills uses the same route.

Please register these four paths across Stoke Lodge Field. Thankfully the fence erected by Cotham School has been partially withdrawn since the Town & Village Green was approved and the use of the old footpaths has returned to normal. Please let's keep it that way.

John Moore

I have been resident in Stoke Bishop for 44 years. During this time I have used the grounds to walk my daughter to and from both her junior and senior schools, from the Stoke Lodge entrance to Parry's

Lane and on Westbury.

When my daughter moved back from London to Henleaze I used the same entry point to cross to West Dene, through the University sports grounds and on to Westbury to catch a bus, up the hill to Henleaze, in order to visit my daughter and my grandsons.

Following major open heart surgery in 2016, I used the whole of the area for my therapeutic exercise and then, as I do not drive, for a direct route through Stoke Lodge via the University grounds to Westbury on Trym to shop and bank.

To have this facility has been extremely gratifying and was a great loss to me when access was closed

Sincerely

Gail Banham

For the attention of Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee Meeting 27th November 2024

We are writing to advise that we have used paths A-E, A-D and J-E since the mid 1980's. Initially we used path A-E to take children to school (Stoke Bishop C of E primary) as we were then living in Briercliffe Road so path A-E was a route to school. We, therefore, disagree with Ashley Bowes comments that any "wandering" took place. Any parent would agree that the early morning trip to school is not a time to wander! Also path A-D was a direct route to the local post office and barbers/hairdressers on Druid Hill.

Currently we live in West Dene and use paths J-F and J-D as a direct route to the Adult Education Centre and to the shops at Druid Hill. With our grandchildren we now take a direct path to the playground. Sadly this was interrupted for a short time when Cotham School erected a perimeter fence.

As we can see the field from our house we also witness parents taking their children to school following path J-E. Again no wandering is involved contrary to Ashley Bowes claim. As they are using these paths or routes, as a highway for a direct purpose they do not "wander".

In conclusion, we have used Stoke Lodge Playing Fields for recreational purposes but also the paths listed as highways to various destinations.

We would ask you, therefore, please, to pass the recommendation to make modifications to the DMMO showing the foot paths on Stoke Lodge.

G Wright and J Wright

Statement for the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting 27th November 2024**Stoke Lodge paths designated Public Rights of Way**

I would like to express my support for the four paths in question at Stoke Lodge to be designated Public Rights of Way. I and my family have been using Stoke Lodge since 1978 and it is a vital green space for our community. My wife and I regularly use the path from the junction of Stoke Hill and Parry's Lane, down to the entrance of Cheyne Road to visit friends. If we could not use this path, it would mean a longer walk on the roads round Stoke Lodge so we would probably end up using our car. We also know of several friends who use the paths to attend classes at the Adult Learning Centre and parents who take their children to Stoke Bishop Primary School. I urge the committee to vote in favour of granting the four paths in question Public Right of Way status.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Causton

To Bristol City Council's Public Rights of Way Greens Committee

I would like to express my support for the Public Rights of Way process to re establish the various paths used by the Public across Stoke Lodge Field over many decades.

Having lived nearby to the Field for over thirty years I can confirm that my wife and I have used the pathways across this large field to get from our home to other areas on the other sides of the field on many occasions, these include;

West Dene to/ from the Stoke Lodge building and on to Shirehampton Road.

West Dene to/ from the corner leading to Stoke Hill and shops

West Dene to/ from Cheyenne Road.

The fence erected by Cotham School, has made such routes impossible to access, or access safely, and impacted on our free movement of getting from A to B.

I trust that this short statement will be submitted as support to re establishing the Public Rights of Way across this, what should be open space, and not allow it to be fenced off against local public's wishes and needs.

Kind Regards
Ken Young

I live in West Dene. I have crossed the field to get to Parry's Lane via Stoke Lodge and to the roundabout Druid Hill / Parry's Lane.

I also use the field for exercise walking around. This was difficult when the fence was up as the paths around the outside of the fence sometimes became very slippery. It is much better now without the fence.

The fence was an unnecessary eyesore. The school is welcome to use the field without the fence. The fence was nothing to do with education and looking after the welfare of the children, it was/is pure greed.

John Henn

Public Forum Statement by Shirley Brown of South Dene BS9 2BN
to Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting 27 November 2024

As a member of the friendly and supportive community neighbouring Stoke Lodge, I am delighted to see that both the independent inspector and BCC's relevant officers agree that the well-established footpaths across the site should be protected by official recognition, and I trust that the PROWG Committee will vote in favour.

Members of my family have lived in Ebenezer Lane, adjacent to Stoke Lodge, since the 1990s; I have lived close by in South Dene since 2013. Before Cotham School erected a fence around the playing fields in 2019, I regularly used the pedestrian routes identified across Stoke Lodge to walk from the West Dene entrance for a variety of purposes: towards Shirehampton Road to access the Stoke Lodge Adult Learning Centre, to attend events at the school in Cedar Park, to accompany children to the play park, or simply to enjoy the arboretum; towards Druid Hill to use the bus stops, or to walk to the post office and shops on Stoke Hill; towards Cheyne Road to use the local shops and cafés on Trym Parade and Sea Mills Square, or on my way to the railway station at Sea Mills; I walked on all three routes to visit friends who live on the other side of the park.

I was shocked and disappointed when Cotham School staff suddenly arrived on Stoke Lodge in January 2019 with contractors who began erecting a fence despite no prior notice to the local community by either Cotham School or Bristol City Council, both of whom were well aware that the fence would block several footpaths that were awaiting official assessment for registration.

Once the fence was complete, with only five gates (two of which, at the arboretum and near Cheyne Road, were often locked even when the other three were open), my customary routes across the field for everyday activities were made difficult or impossible. I was forced to find inconvenient or uncongenial alternatives. It was necessary to walk much longer distances all around the perimeter to reach the Adult Learning Centre and the play park. Neighbours with children at Stoke Park Primary School were forced to walk there on the narrow pavements alongside Shirehampton Road, at times when it is busy with fast-moving traffic. The narrow paths left between the fence and the border trees and bushes became muddy and dangerous in adverse weather. Even when the gate closest to Cheyne Road was open, it was situated a long way away from the entrance, adding extra distance to the previous route.

Although there were notices at some - not all - of the entry/exit points to the routes across Stoke Lodge, I never considered them to be "inconsistent with the dedication of the way as a highway" for four reasons:

1. The agreement signed between landowner Bristol City Council and leaseholder Cotham School in 2011 includes a specially inserted clause that makes the School's lease on the land "subject also to all existing rights and use of the Property including use by the community".

2 Local residents had had open access to the land for seven decades: no-one ever suggested to me that I was doing something wrong when I used the familiar routes across the field, and I was never prevented from crossing before Cotham School's hostile attitude and physical obstruction.

3. Avon County Council ceased to exist in 1996, after which there was no authority responsible for enforcing the provisions on their notices. Avon CC had never taken any enforcement action to prevent people from crossing the field. Indeed, action had been taken to facilitate pedestrian use: after discussion of a possible stile at the Cheyne Road entrance, eventually some large tree trunks were laid to deter vehicles but allow easy access for pedestrians.

4. Even if the notices had been linked to an extant local authority, the threat of prosecution for "exercising dogs or horses, using motorcycles, parking vehicles or flying model aircraft" was qualified by the phrase "which causes or permits nuisance or disturbance to the annoyance of persons lawfully using the playing field", which could be interpreted as saying that even those potentially disruptive activities were acceptable provided they were carried out unobtrusively. I never committed - or saw anyone else committing - "nuisance or annoyance" to other users of the playing field by simply walking across the land on the well-established routes that I sincerely hope will now be officially recognised and protected by this Committee with DMMO registration.

Thank you.

Mrs Polly-Anna Cockerham

7 South Dene
Stoke Bishop
Bristol BS9 2BW
Telephone: 0117 9681637
Mobile: 07818 278413
Email: pollyannacockerham@gmail.com

22 November 2024

Witness Statement in support of 'Public Rights of Way' for Stoke Lodge Parkland

Mrs Polly-Anna Cockerham
7 South Dene, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2BW
Chartered Tax Adviser

I am writing this statement to show the routes time my family have enjoyed across Stoke Lodge Parkland.

I moved into South Dene in October 1998. My family have enjoyed a nice green walk to Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre, Shirehampton shops and down to Blaise mainly from the West Dene entrance, although occasionally from the top of Ebenezer Lane.

I use the route from the West Dene entrance down to Cheyne Road as a regular route to the shops on Shirehampton Road and my dentist on Bell Barn Road. This is a very safe route with my two girls.

The route across from the West Dene entrance to Stoke Lodge Adult Education Centre is also used by us when it is time to vote or if there is an exhibition or event on in the building.

On the occasion of having younger children visit the route from West Dene to the play area on Stoke Lodge is the safest and quickest route.

The field is also used by me for daily exercise, taking a circular route around the field from the West Dene entrance.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true,

Signature:



Date: 22 November 2024

I would like to record that I regularly use public rights of way across Stoke Lodge and would like them to be recorded as such (public right of way).

The one that I use the most is across the parkland from West Dene to Stoke Lodge where I attend an adult education class. I really enjoy the privilege of walking away from the traffic and appreciate the different seasons in the changes in the trees. It definitely improves my well-being, regardless of the weather.

Can you please forward my statement to the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee before its next meeting.

Yours,
Lucy Swithinbank

Stoke Lodge

I strongly support registering public rights of way through Stoke Lodge playing fields. I use these routes regularly for example when I drop my bike off at Insight Cycles then run home to Coombe Dingle.

It was very disappointing when the fence blocked my route and meant I had to skirt around the edge of the field. I feel very strongly that there should be public access to the whole green space.

Jenny Grenfell-Shaw (Dr)

Public Forum Statement by Ewen MacLeod of South Dene BS9 2BN
to Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting 27 November
2024

I have lived in South Dene since 2013, and other members of my family have lived in nearby Ebenezer Lane since 1997 - and continue to do so right up to the present day. My experience of making use of the footpaths across Stoke Lodge is thus a smaller part of a much larger history that extends all the way back to 1947. Earlier today while walking on those paths I had a conversation with an older resident (I am 71 myself) who reflected sadly on the number of even older local people who have passed away in recent years, and are no longer able to share their own personal memories of that heritage and usage of Stoke Lodge. So I hope you will accept my comments on their behalf as well.

The shorter footpath from West Dene over to Stoke Lodge house and the Shirehampton Rd is a highly important umbilical shortcut for anyone who wants to get from the Coombe Lane/ West Dene area over to the shops at Trym Parade and the #4 bus route on the Shirehampton Rd. It is also an important asset for parents who need to escort young children each morning to the Stoke Bishop C of E primary school in Cedar Rd. When Cotham School erected their fence in Stoke Lodge in early 2019 they made a point of keeping the security gates padlocked firmly shut throughout the 8 a.m./ 9 a.m. school run period - forcing local parents and children to make a much longer detour around the field; even though Cotham School's own use of Stoke Lodge for PE never began before 9.30 a.m. This obstructive behaviour of keeping the gates locked even when Cotham School were not using the field for days on end included local and national election days, when Stoke Lodge was in use as polling station - which meant that local residents, many of whom were elderly or had complex health and mobility issues, were forced to make long detours in order to exercise their democratic right to vote.

One interesting aspect of the footpath between West Dene and Stoke Lodge house is that it follows the line of the old carriage driveway leading from the West Dene cottages (which used to be the Lodge gatehouse) up to the house. During hot summers, that old driveway reappears like a ghost in the form of well defined yellow parch marks - an example of what is known as 'heatwave archaeology' in which the lines of old foundations below the soil reappear. A vivid reminder of the historical nature of this particular section of the footpath system, and a rebuttal to anyone inclined to dispute its existence.

The longer sections of footpaths running through Stoke Lodge in a N/S direction between the Cheyne Oak, and the Druid Hill roundabout are a key part of the amenity of this area, and also a boon to anyone who simply wants to enjoy this green space, or perhaps take a child round to visit the play-park on the Shirehampton Rd side. Once again local residents had to endure years of spiteful obstruction of this important footpath after Cotham School quite deliberately installed an access gate in the fence at the Cheyne end some fifty yards to the west of the Cheyne Oak which marks endpoint of the footpath. I was present on the field as a volunteer tree guardian and observer in February 2019 when the contractors were installing the Cheyne gate, and witnessed local residents pointing out to the workmen that the gate was being placed many yards away from where it should have been - the contractors just shrugged and said they were following instructions. When Cotham School subsequently installed electronic gate locking systems, the Cheyne gate was left permanently padlocked because there was no convenient source of electricity nearby to power a traction magnet system.

I do hope that the committee will feel able to follow the recommendations of its advisers, and register the paths on Stoke Lodge as public footpaths, which will help lay to rest once and for all any future attempts by entities like Cotham School to obstruct them.

I have been a user of Stoke Lodge for 40 years, living in Reedley Road. It was a regular area for me to play football there with my son, when he was young. I still regularly walk across the beautiful grass, enjoying the trees, and the open air. I was horrified when fences were put up years ago. There seemed to be no reason for this. There were always football pitches marked there, as we used to use the goals to aim at. If there is/was a problem with dog faeces, then deal with the dog owners. not the general public.

I also understand that there is no legal issue with the idea of school children playing sports there on public access land.

Please enshrine paths with permanent right of way, and respect the strong public access sentiment of local people, and sustain our village green status.

Regards, Ken Wilkinson.

Dear Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee,

I am writing to state that, I fully support registering the long standing public footpaths across Stoke Lodge Playing Fields as Public Rights of Way.

I have lived in the area for over 34 years.

Throughout these years I have regularly used the paths to cross from Shirehampton Road to Cheyne Road to visit friends as well as from West Dene to Shirehampton Road and Ebenezer Path to Cheyne Road and Shirehampton Road.

All use over this 34 years plus period, has been to visit the shops on Shirehampton Road, visit friends and family as well as regular leisure use for exercise.

Of course the erection of the fence by Cotham School abruptly prevented the use of the public paths, causing immense inconvenience.

It is has been marvellous to have the public paths once again be accessible.

Please, ensure these Public Paths used over decades, if not a century or more, are protected for the generations to come, by voting in support of their registration as Public Rights of Way.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Elstob

I am writing in support of the Registration of Footpaths on Stoke Lodge.

My family moved to Rayleigh Rd (BS9 2AU) from Surrey in 1984. Our main attraction to this location was the many green spaces available for our children and our dog. Many of these have now been built on ! We also found that the walk from Rayleigh Rd across Stoke Lodge, to the shops in Stoke Bishop, was a delight compared to other options which were far longer and involved far more hazardous road routes. Our Children could pick Blackberries and wild flowers, and they actually enjoyed the shops in Stoke Bishop knowing that their homeward journey would give them more fun on Stoke Lodge playing field. Their own children are still doing similar walks from Reedley Rd.

I am now 83 years old and I can still manage to walk (with Sticks) on Stoke Lodge 2-3 times a week and also visit friends in Queensgate and Cedar Park which is a short hop from Rayleigh Rd but a long route by road.

Please add my support to the Registration of the footpaths as they have been very much an enjoyable part of our lives for over 40 years.

Hugh Snodgrass

Dear Sirs

I understand you are currently considering formally registering Public Rights of Way across Stoke Lodge.

I would like to record my views for your consideration.

I have lived in Dingle Road, Coombe Dingle for 70 years and have regularly used Stoke Lodge for all that time. Firstly watching and playing cricket for Stoke Bishop cricket club from 1953 to 1980, playing football for Coombe Dingle Boys club in the 1960's and 70's, plus many past and recent informal walks and rambles.

I still regularly use the footpaths outlined on the proposed registration map. Firstly from Cheyne Road to the main house to vote at local and national elections and secondly from Cheyne Road to Druid Hill to frequently visit my barber Salvatore in the village.

These are scenic, traffic free routes and would be sorely missed if they were not available.

I therefore record my support that these footpaths are formally adopted.

Yours Faithfully

Dave Watkins

I would like to lodge my support for footpaths on Stoke Lodge playing fields to be registered as Public Rights of way.

I live at the very end of West Dene and myself and my family have made use of the various footpaths for many years.

We particularly use the path from West Dene to Stoke Lodge House as a route for taking our son to school and back everyday. We also use this route to access the shops and amenities on Shirehampton Road.

We often use the path from West Dene to Parrys Lane as a way of getting to the bus stop on the corner of Shirehampton Road and Parrys Lane and to visit friends who live in that direction.

Having access to these pathways is of material benefit to our lives. When we were excluded from using them by Cotham School's fence we had to navigate through the boggy path around the field which made the journey longer and meant that we would inevitably arrive covered in mud. On two occasions my son slipped on the mud, one time getting his school uniform covered in mud on the way to school, the other time cutting his hand open on the fence as he tried to steady himself.

On behalf of all the people who live in the local area of Stoke Bishop I sincerely hope you are able to preserve our access along these pathways.

Yours faithfully,
Matt Fletcher

Dear Sir / Madam.

I would like you to register the paths at the above Parkland as I, and my family, have used them for many years.

We have lived on Coombe Lane for over 20 years; we regularly walk along West Dene and use the paths to go to the shops on Shirehampton Road.

In addition I attend Bridge courses at the Adult Learning Centre on a weekly basis and always walk, which means walking directly along the path, from one side of the Parkland to the other.

In addition, we used the paths when we walked our eldest daughter to school at Stoke Bishop Primary School.

Being able to use the paths ensures we avoid the busy roads.

If the paths are not registered, we would revert back to using our car.

Thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully,
Allister Simpson

Dear Sir / Madam.

I would like you to register the paths at the above Parkland as I, and my family, have used them for many years.

We have lived on Coombe Lane for over 20 years; we regularly walk along West Dene and use the paths to go to the shops on Shirehampton Road.

In addition I attend Bridge courses at the Adult Learning Centre on a weekly basis and always walk, which means walking directly along the path, from one side of the Parkland to the other.

In addition, we used the paths when we walked our eldest daughter to school at Stoke Bishop Primary School.

Being able to use the paths ensures we avoid the busy roads.

If the paths are not registered, we would revert back to using our car.

Thank you in advance.

Yours faithfully,
Allister Simpson

Dear Sir,

As a local Stoke Bishop resident adjacent to Stoke Lodge I would like to make a statement for the consideration of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee at its 27th November meeting. It is as follows:

Three generations of my family have been able to use Stoke Lodge for recreational purposes. Cotham School's fence, erected on the pretext of its being a legal requirement (not true), soon put paid to that!

However, the issue here is the Public Rights of Way across the land, not our recreational use of it. My wife and I, living in Sunnyside, BS9, make particular and regular use of the 'Blue' path (Parry's Lane/Druid Hill to Cheyne Road); also, less often but from time to time, of the 'Green' path (Stoke Lodge to Cheyne Road). It is a great convenience to be able to do so, and there is surely no good reason for Cotham School's blocking of the rights of ways with its fence and with its intransigent opposition to community use of the land generally. (In the course of regular walks we often find ourselves crossing the other putative rights of way as well.) I think I can say that as a community we of course support Cotham School's use of the parkland for the sporting recreation of its pupils; but we do not understand why this is being accompanied by attempts to exclude everyone else from having access; and why the abolition of the public paths is being sought.

We urge Bristol City Council to approve the recording of the Public Rights of Way as proposed.

Chris Harries (Mr)

Statement for the Bristol PROWG Committee

Date of Statement 24th November 2024.

My statement is as follows.

As a guide-dog owner living on Coombe lane I have used 2 of the paths regularly (multiple times per week) since 2016. These paths are: From West Dene across the Town and Village Green to Shirehampton rd. I used this for travelling from my home to the shops and back. Also the path from Parrys lane through the Town and Village Green to Cheyne rd. I used this route when I returned from bus journeys to get back to my home on Coombe lane and vice versa from Cheyne rd up to the top of the TVG.

The routes are extremely important to me as they allow me functional routes to and from my destinations, which also incorporated much needed access to nature for myself and my guide dog. When these routes were blocked by the school fence this caused massive, unnecessary problems with my travel; the fencing was put in place with no consultation with local people, no consultation with local disabled people including myself and no impact assessment. As there was no impact assessment of the effects upon local people there was also no mitigation of the detrimental effects of blocking access for disabled people who used these important pathways.

I would like the pathways officially recognised and registered so that my access in the future and the access of other local disabled and non-disabled people is not ever again put at risk.

I would therefore ask that these pathways be registered by the PROWG.

Thankyou

Karen Cole

Local resident.

Dear Team,

I'm writing to express how important it is to our community that the footpaths on Stoke Lodge be registered as public rights of way.

We walked our children across Stoke lodge in order to get to Stoke Bishop CofE Primary school. Our route starts at the bottom of the field, walking along Ebenezer Lane and crossing over to Stoke Lodge house and the main entrance/exit.

This has been a safe, enjoyable route, providing exercise and time in nature. The footpaths also avoid the busy 'A' road, which brings heavy traffic from the portway and motorways into the centre. Using Stoke Lodge is a welcome, unpolluted walk for young families, to access school or the shops. It is important these are registered for present and future generations for the city to work towards meeting its green targets, and to avoid forcing families to drive relatively short routes. These footpaths encourage and embed the importance of daily exercise, rather than reliance on driving, which starting when children are small can mean lifelong benefits.

When the fence was erected, the very limited space around the field made the journey longer and difficult, in the wet weather the narrow path left, quickly resulted in a bog which meant any walk was very muddy and not an option.

Please register the footpaths as public rights of way to ensure future generations have access.

Thanks for reading this short statement.

Della and Simon Hooper

Dear Committee,

please see below our Statement of use of footpaths at Stoke Lodge, Stoke Bishop.

STATEMENT

(References to Routes are as described page10 & Plan 1 page35 of the CommitteesAgenda Report).

We are Mr M.J. & Mrs L.O. Sheehan.

My wife & I have lived opposite Stoke Lodge at 41, Queens Gate since March 1997 to the present.

We & our family made frequent use of the footpaths at Stoke Lodge Parkland throughout this period.

Even prior to this we lived in nearby Stoke Lane, Stoke Bishop since 1978 & during that period we also used the footpaths at Stoke Lodge.

Route 2

From home we would walk from Shirehampton Rd (via route 2) past Stoke Lodge house across the parkland exiting at West Dene to visit friends in South Dene & beyond. Other times we would use the same footpath to catch the bus in Coombe Lane. We also used this route to walk to Canford Cemetery or Canford Park via a footpath passing the University of Bristol Sports Ground.

Route 3

Walking from home then Shirehampton Rd past Stoke Lodge House we would take the footpath (route 3) to Cheyne Rd to visit family living in nearby Poplar Avenue. Other times we would use this same footpath as a short cut to walk to Combe Dingle via Bell barn Rd & Combe Bridge Avenue.

Route 4 & 1

When returning home from further afield after visiting friends & family via Stoke Paddock Rd or via Cheyne Rd we would periodically vary the route home by walking along the footpath route 4 & then route 2 or alternately towards the end of Parry's Lane (route1) to

enjoy the scenery, trees & & birdlife before exiting at 'D' & then returning home via Parry's Lane then Shirehampton Rd.

Prior to moving to Queens Gate while living in Stoke lane we used to periodically walk to the shops in Shirehampton Rd & the nearby river Trym valley walks. We would walk from Stoke Lane via Stoke Grove / Red House lane / West Dene transverse Stoke Lodge taking the footpath (route 2) & exiting at the main exit at Shirehampton Rd. We also used the same route to walk to Stoke Lodge to use the further education / hobby/ cookery facilities over many years.

After enjoying uninterrupted use of the footpaths for many decades it was incredibly annoying for the footpaths to be shut off by the erection of fencing by Cotham School.

We would very much wish for the Committee to approve the permanent Registration of Stoke Lodge footpaths.

Yours sincerely,

M.J. Sheehan & Mrs L.O. Sheehan

Dear PROW Committee

Please accept this email reference

the importance of the continued ability to use the Public Rights of Way through Stoke Lodge in Stoke Bishop.

We are a local family and every day we use the entrance at Cheyne Road and either cycle or walk across Stoke Lodge to exit at the Adult Learning Centre as a safe way to travel to our children's school Stoke Bishop C of E primary school. This allows us to get to school safely without the use of a car.

I also use the whole length of Stoke Lodge to walk between the Cheyne Road and Parrys Lane entrances to walk to and from work.

I walk through Stoke Lodge on a very regular basis as most of my friends live around the Lodge and we walk through to each other's houses to socialise.

It is very very common that I will use the PROW paths all over Stoke Lodge to walk and relax and talk to my TRIM counsellor due to the nature of my work.

As a family we use the PROW paths to walk or cycle to the play park which our children use several times during the week come rain or shine.

We as a family were unable to do any of these things when the Lodge was fenced off. We hope and pray Stoke Lodge is left unfenced and the thousands of people who rely on it day in and day out, can still access the PROW through it, and are able to use the full size of the green space.

Many thanks and kind regards for reading my statement.

Robert Wilton

Good morning,

I'd like to express my support for having the footpaths on Stoke Lodge playing fields officially designated as Public Rights of Way.

My family and I live at the very end of West Dene and have been using these footpaths for many years.

In particular, we frequently use the path that runs from West Dene to Shirehampton Road as part of our daily routine to walk our son to and from school. Additionally, the path from West Dene to Parrys Lane is a vital route for us to reach the bus stop at the Shirehampton Road/Parrys Lane junction and to visit friends in that direction.

These paths provide significant value to our daily lives. When access was restricted by Cotham School's fence, we were forced to use the boggy path around the field, which not only extended our journey but also left us covered in mud.

I hope that access to these pathways can be safeguarded for the benefit of everyone living in the Stoke Bishop area. They are an important resource for the community, and preserving them would make a real difference to our lives.

Kind regards

Emily

Statement in support of registration:

I regularly walk a circular route from my house in Druid Rd to the shops in Shirehampton Rd, returning via Stoke Lodge (entering at the Cheyne Rd end, exiting at the Parrys Lane end). This uplifting walk across an open space was spoilt by the erection of the fence, and I was very pleased to see the fence removed. I would urge the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee to register the four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge.

Ben Willcocks

Dear Sirs

Extraordinary Meeting, Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee - Wednesday, 27th November, 2024

We have lived in the area for almost 50 years, both in our present address and previously in Stoke Grove. During that time the footpaths over the playing fields have been invaluable to my wife and I, either during exercise or for convenient access to friends who live in the adjacent area on the other side of the playing fields. We also cross the fields on the way to the shops/hairdresser at the bottom of Druid Hill or those on Shirehampton Road.

It goes without saying that whilst the fencing installed by Cotham School was in place around the playing fields preventing public access it was extremely frustrating and, for our part, very inconvenient.

We sincerely hope/trust that the committee will agree to the registration of these paths as formal rights of way for the benefit of local residents in perpetuity.

Yours faithfully

Keith & Gill Edwards

Dear Members of the committee

I would like to comment on the rights of way across the land at Stoke Lodge. I have lived in Cheyne Road for 25+ years and I rely on the rights of way to exercise and go about my regular activities.

I use the right across the land from Cheyne Road entrance to Stoke Bishop village for shopping and access to the Post Office as well as for visiting a friend in Eastmead Lane. On moving to the area it was possible to see the pathway across the land and take the right route.

When going to Stoke Lane for prescriptions as well as the cashpoint which is situated there I use the route from Cheyne Road into Ebenezer lane (at the top end by Cross Elms Lane)

When the restrictions caused by the fence were in place, I needed to skirt the field and make my journey much longer. I sincerely hope that the committee will follow the recommendations and grant that the ancient rights of way be protected.

Mary Alpass

Statement regarding my use of footpaths on Stoke Lodge.

I was a resident of Bell Barn Road from 1968 until I moved to Cheyne Road in 1985. Apart from using Stoke Lodge for enjoyment, I would often use the pathways as a shortcut from home, via the Cheyne Road entrance up to Parrys Lane and onwards to see friends or to walk my daughters back from the Grove playing fields after school. I would also walk across to the adult learning centre and onwards either to see a friend on Druid Hill or, more often, to the post office, grocer's shop, or off-licence at the bottom of Druid Hill. I would return via the same route.

Being a slightly shorter journey from Cheyne Road, once we moved there in 1985 this was quite a regular walk for me although use declined as I got older.

I am so very pleased that, at last, these important pathways are being recommended for registration. I fully support this as it will guarantee the availability for the constant use they still get by people going to and from shops, bus stops, and social meetings for the future.

Stella Creer.

Dear Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the registration of the four public rights of way at Stoke Lodge. Having lived in this area for most of my life, I can't overstate how important these paths are to me and many others in the community.

For decades, I've relied on these routes as part of my everyday life. Whether it's walking my children to school, visiting friends or family, or simply running errands to the local shops, these paths have provided an easy and safe way to get where I need to go. They save considerable time and make journeys much safer by avoiding the need to cross busy main roads.

When the fence was put up, I felt both frustrated and cut off. Losing access to these routes disrupted routines and forced me, like so many others, to find alternative routes that were longer and far less convenient.

These paths are not just shortcuts; they are vital connections that bring people closer to their community. They encourage walking over driving and help create a sense of shared space that benefits everyone. I strongly urge the Committee to approve the registration and protect these rights of way for future generations.

Thank you for taking this matter seriously and for considering my perspective.

Kind regards,

Michelle Mason

Dear Committee Members,

As a child brought up in Coombe Dingle and particularly since living in Cheyne Road since 1999, I have frequently used the footpaths across Stoke Lodge Fields.

From the access at the south end of Cheyne Road, where there was a kissing gate in my childhood, I use the path across to the access by the roundabout where Shirehampton Road meets Cross Elms Lane and Druid Hill to walk to the shops in Stoke Bishop Village.

In my childhood I used to walk across and play on Stoke Lodge Fields with friends, who lived in Cheyne Road, Coombe Bridge Avenue and Briercliffe Road, accessing the Fields from the end of Cheyne Road, from Ebenezer Lane and sometimes from the end of West Dene.

I sincerely hope that the paths across Stoke Lodge Fields can be registered for the enjoyment of the people of Bristol and the residents of the neighbourhood.

Yours faithfully

Thomas Henry Cockcroft Alpass

We have lived in Stoke Bishop for nearly 20y years and regularly use the footpaths before the fence was put up.

We would meet up with my daughter and grandchildren to go to the play area.

Crossing the field to go to the Stoke Lodge adults classes.

Walking through to go to our local shops

Using the footpaths many times over many years.

Jenny White

Hi, I have lived in the Stoke Bishop area for decades and regularly use the Public Rights of Way at Stoke Lodge for:

1. Gaining access to Stock Lodge house for Adult Learning from West Dene.
2. Visiting the local shops on Shirehampton Road and Druid Hill.
3. Visiting my daughter in Parry's Close.

The fencing off of these Public Rights of Way is breaking the law and should never be allowed.

Regards,

P.J.White

As a resident of Woodland Grove of 20 years I have used Stoke Lodge Village Green as a vital form of access to the various amenities on both Shirehampton Road and Stoke Hill. These amenities include grocery shops, restaurants, doctors' surgery and dentists).I live alone and rely on the small shops and services in the immediate area which are made entirely accessible as a result of being able to walk across Stoke Lodge Village Green.

In addition, the health and well-being afforded by being able to walk to these amenities as opposed to having to drive everywhere is essential to me.

In the years when Cotham School erected the perimeter fence my self-sufficiency and my health were jeopardized by the access being restricted.

It is clear that the green is used by multiple residents for the same purposes and that the green is central to the local community's access to amenities and well-being.

Joan Littlewood

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to let you know that as a local resident, it is imperative that the Stoke Lodge public rights of way are registered as public rights of way.

These rights of way are used by me every week. I use the West Dene entrance to Stoke Lodge. From there I use the public footpath to Shirehampton Road (either exit). This enables me to get to the Trymwood Express Tesco & Co-op. I also go to the Hideaway for drinks and a meal. Also, that would be the route to our vet. I would also go to the shops on Druid Hill. I would shop at the local store and Amy's winehouse. As well as use the hairdresser and beautician.

During the time Stoke Lodge was fenced off. It caused me major inconvenience to have to use the perimeter.

In summary, I would like to express my support at registering these well used paths at public rights of way.

Yours faithfully

Emma

Emma Geale

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support as a local resident, that the Stoke Lodge public rights of way are registered as public rights of way.

These rights of way are used by me regularly. I use the West Dene entrance to Stoke Lodge. From there I use the public footpath to Shirehampton Road (either exit). This enables me to get to the Trymwood Express Tesco & Co-op. I also go to the Hideaway for drinks and a meal. Also, that would be the route to our local vet. I would also go to the shops on Druid Hill. I would shop at the local post office and Amy's Winehouse.

During the time Stoke Lodge was fenced off. It caused me major inconvenience to have to use the perimeter only.

In summary, I would like to express my support at registering these well used paths at public rights of way.

Yours faithfully

Barry

Barry Geale

Mike & Jackie Whitworth
 30 Glen Drive
 BS91SB

24-11-2024.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND GREENS COMMITTEE

Dear Committee

In 1998 we were lucky enough to move to Stoke Bishop, about a mile from where my wife's parents and brother lived, but in different locations.

In those younger, fitter days it was great to be able to visit parents without having to use the car, as we'd had no option to do this when we lived in Southville.

A short walk up to Druid Hill roundabout and across the road to enter Stoke Lodge Playing Fields by the mobile mast, then a 'walk in the countryside', down the field to Cheyne Road before reaching our destination in Coombe Bridge Avenue; later in the day to have the uphill walk home.

Great in good weather and still enjoyable even in inclement weather. Though parents passed away that walk continued as a regular part of exercise until the fence went up initially, and latterly through health issues, though it still feels good on the less frequent walks where thousands of feet have previously walked.

Please register these paths so that future generations can enjoy walking them as we have.

Yours sincerely

Mike Whitworth

Whilst I have used all four rights of way applied for over Stoke Lodge parkland regularly over the last 30 years I have primarily used the path from the entry to Stoke Lodge off Parrys Lane across the full length of the field to the ancient oak at Cheyne Road almost daily to get both to and from the shops at Shirehampton Road and to the river Trym to see the Kingfishers and occasional deer.

The stunning open view towards the ridge during all seasons is best absorbed from this direct path and is impossible to see or enjoy from the sides of Stoke Lodge parkland.

I have walked over this path both day and night particularly to get to the ALC evening classes whilst watching the bats and avoiding traffic fumes.

The wonderful elation of walking this route was quashed, with my health and well-being suffering greatly, after the wretched fence was prematurely erected with trips to the doctor over stress relating specifically to the fence and the loss of access to the paths.

It is vitally important for the health of many besides myself that the councilors vote to restore all of the rights of way across Stoke Lodge parkland.

Thank you for your attention,

Kind regards

Judith Brant

Dear PROWG

I wish to record that as a local resident, council tax payer, and tax payer, I want the Public Rights of Way over the village green at Stoke Lodge playing fields registered to protect them for this generation and future generations. As a local resident, living in nearby South Dene, I have often walked across Stoke Lodge from the access near the pavilion, when open, with my children and grandchildren to the nearby play park, and as a pleasant short cut avoiding the busy Parrys Lane and Shirehampton Road toward the shops and amenities on Shirehampton Road. As I get older, I am 76, I value open spaces within the city boundary more and more. Currently I am able to access several on foot or by bike, car or public transport, but there may come a time when my most local village green is the only one easily accessible. I understand the advice is that the public rights of way should be registered, and I hope that you uphold this please.

I must also say that this is only necessary because of the continued intransigence of Cotham School, which, having Academy status, are subject to no one other than the Secretary of State for Education, and certainly not Bristol City Council. Nevertheless they are publicly funded so it is public money they are spending and/or risking through their continued legal actions, which one can only think are in a vain attempt to outspend those fighting for Stoke Lodge Playing Fields in the courts. As someone who spent their entire working life of forty years in Education, in and around schools, including over 30 years in Local Government as an Education Officer, I should be sympathetic to Cotham School. It speaks absolute volumes about their refusal to have any meaningful dialogue about this sorry saga, that I am not.

Yours sincerely

Ken Pattison

I regularly walk from my house. This uplifting walk across an open space was spoilt by the erection of the fence, and I was very pleased to see the fence removed. I would urge the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee to register the four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge.

Graeme Hogg

I would like to emphasise how much these Rights of Way mean to those of us who use them to get about the locality and avoid slippery pavements and increasingly busy roads.

I have recollections from others no longer alive just how useful these paths were for getting to Cedar Park School, the shops on Shirehampton Road, or Stoke Lodge Centre. Thank you.

Vivien Gellett

For Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting, 27th November 2024

Statement in support of the application to register.

Our family has lived in close proximity to Stoke Lodge since 1984. We have used the footpaths as walking routes from Coombe Lane across Stoke Lodge to access the Adult Learning Centre in Stoke Lodge House, shops and businesses at Sea Mills, and to visit our son and his family when they lived in Stoke Bishop. For recreation, we have used the footpath across Stoke Lodge to Cheyne Road for onward access across Bell Barn Road to further footpaths alongside the River Trym.

During the period when access was blocked by fencing we were unable to reach any of these destinations without significant diversion. The footpaths are of long standing, in continuous use by ourselves for decades, and we request that they be registered by the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee.

Andrew and Margaret Hiles

To Bristol City Council's Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee

I would like to support the recognition of the four public rights of way across Stoke Lodge.

As a resident of Bristol for nearly 20 years, I have used Stoke Lodge for 3 reasons mainly:

- as a nice place to exercise (usually running/jogging), criss-crossing in all directions, and making full use of that great space
- playing with the kids and the kids' friends: we go everywhere in Stoke Lodge, and often go across from Parys Lane to Cheyne road (back and forth) as 2 families of their friends live nearby (one at each end)
- to cross to visit some very good friends, using the path between the West Dene entrance and Shirehampton road.

I hope you will recognize the public right (and benefit) of the various footpaths.

Cotham School should be ashamed of their truly disgusting behaviour, trying to privatize public land for their benefit. I was really shocked and angered when the fences went up. Greed seems to have no end...

Let's hope councillors will have some backbone fighting that back.

Living in hope

Yvan Costes

To Whom It May Concern,

I have lived in Cheyne Road since I was nine months old, when my parents purchased no 10 in 1974.

As a pre-school child my access route (with my mother) to kindergarten at West Dene House on Shirehampton Road, was via the top of Cheyne Road to Stoke Lodge House and its entrance on to Shirehampton Road. Our GP surgery was also next door. I went to Stoke Bishop Primary in Cedar Park so the route was the same, until my mother passed her driving test in 1980 and bought a car.

I went to Clifton High School for Girls from 1980-1992. The Grove was at that time the School's sports fields. If the last lessons were sports at The Grove, (usually in the summer), I would walk home through the gap at the top of Stoke Lodge's boundary wall and down to the entrance/exit at the top of Cheyne Road, rather than being bused back to school. This was common practice for those of us who lived locally. I had school friends who lived in Druid Stoke Avenue, and on the other side off Coombe Lane. So we were constantly criss crossing to each other's houses, whether that be from Druid Hill to Cheyne Road, West Dene to Druid Hill, West Dene to Cheyne Road etc.

Many years ago there were allotments to the rear of Stoke Lodge House, behind the ALC car park. Our then neighbours opposite, a Mr and Mrs Clarke, had one such allotment. Their route to their allotment was, logically, from the top of Cheyne Road to Stoke Lodge House. Mr Clarke tutored me for French G.C.S.E, and when aware that I was interested in gardening took me to see the allotments via this route.

In the mid 1990s I worked for Thresher Wine Merchants. I worked at several premises during this time, and for a while worked at their Druid Hill store (where the fish and chip shop now is). In good weather and light I would take the route from Cheyne Road to Druid Hill and back.

In the late 2000s I took several art courses at the Adult Learning Centre, and usually walked from home to Stoke Lodge via the direct route from Cheyne Road.

Since owning a car (1991 onwards), I have used the garage in Stoke Bishop Village almost continuously (as has the rest of my family). After dropping a car off I have always taken the path from Druid Hill to Cheyne Road, and vice versa when returning for said car. I have also used the path from West Dene to Shirehampton Road via the entrance/exit at Stoke Lodge House. It's not as vital to me as those who live either side; so it must have been incredibly vexatious to anyone who relied on this connection when Cotham Academy completely blocked this passage, with the construction of a fence a few years ago. When this fence went up I found it extremely frustrating when needing to take the most expedient route across Stoke Lodge parkland; finding myself having to circumnavigate a fence that, in places, forced me to take an undesirable, sometimes narrow and latterly overgrown, route. Muddy and sometimes slippery in winter with the subsequently increased traffic, as we were all forced to walk around the perimeter. Sometimes in half light or darkness which can be unsettling in its confinement, as opposed to the visibility and freedom of movement afforded to walking the pre fence well trodden paths in the open.

I can say with certainty that the footpaths proposed for registration are well established connections across Stoke Lodge, and are vital to the community. To my memory, until Cotham Academy put their fence up, these access routes had never been questioned; they were just there. I feel it is of utmost importance that they are awarded the recommended registration and thereby protection, for now and for future generations.

Alexandra Sarah Macara

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I, with our infant daughter, moved to 10 Cheyne Road in 1974.

At that time the local GP surgery was Dr Eastman's on the corner of Shirehampton Road and Cedar Park. When my daughter, and then my son, were of age they attended West Dene Kindergarten, next door to the surgery. They then both attended Stoke Bishop Primary in Cedar Park. In the early years I had not yet learnt to drive, and as my husband was at work during the day, local journeys were by bus or on foot. Thus, the most direct route for us to school or surgery was from the top of Cheyne Road, and then across the field to the Adult Learning Centre and out onto Shirehampton Road.

I also attended some classes at Stoke Lodge ALC so used this route regularly at that time.

Both my late husband and I, and my children, have used the garage in Stoke Bishop village for many years for our cars. When dropping a car off, or collecting, the most direct route on foot is from the top of the field where Druid Hill, Parry's Lane and Shirehampton Road meet, directly down to the Cheyne Road entrance, and vice versa.

We also attended events at Stoke Bishop Village Hall over the years using this route, including ballet classes for my daughter when she was around 5/6 years old, children's birthday parties, coffee mornings and such like.

I feel that it is imperative that these paths are recognised through registration to protect them for our community. From our early years in Cheyne Road onwards, we crossed back and forth over Stoke Lodge, it was perfectly normal to do so to get from A to B.

Dictated to my daughter(Alexandra Macara), on behalf of:

Sylvia, Lady Macara.

I was very pleased to hear that both the independent consultant who reported on Professor Preece's application, and the officer's report to this Committee, have recommended that all the four footpaths on Stoke Lodge be registered. I strongly agree that registration should take place, for the reasons below.

The footpaths across Stoke Lodge have been a convenience and a fact of life that I've observed throughout the nearly 30 years that I've visited the parkland and playing field. But only when I moved to Stoke Bishop in 2005 did I realise how much Stoke Lodge is a hub of community life. These four paths link neighbourhoods, which would otherwise be separated by distance and busy roads, making them into an overarching and well connected, supportive community. Without them, South and West Dene, and Ebenezer Lane, would be distanced from shops and bus stops in Shirehampton Road and from the school. Bell Barn Road, Coombe Dingle and several entrances to Blaise estate would be far less accessible from Druid Hill and Hollybush Lane areas. The fabric of the community would loosen and the structure would crumble, to the detriment of mutual support systems and community cohesion.

I use all these paths at different times for seeing friends around Stoke Lodge and combining that with visiting shops in Shirehampton Road and catching the bus into town. I walk from my house in Shaplands along Hollybush Lane to Druid Hill roundabout, where I cross over to enter Stoke Lodge, take the path down to Cheyne Road and into Bellbarn Road, instead of going a long way round via Stoke Paddock Road. I can return via the path past the pavilion into Ebenezer Lane and the Denes and Coombe Lane and the bus stop. Or I can go across to the Adult Education Centre. And during this time I am likely to meet people and talk to them, hear local news that affects me or someone I know, and cements the feeling of being part of something bigger than myself.

In 2019 a fence was installed that chopped up and disrupted our familiar routes, it was intensely felt that our habitual ways were not being protected. It was isolating and inhibiting and frustrating. We also saw many badger deaths as they were prevented from using their ancestral routes and had to venture onto unsuitable roads with fast traffic, and we felt helpless. Without good, varied ways to communicate and bump into each other, there is no community. We felt ours start to wither while the fence disrupted our paths.

Please ensure that our paths are registered so our strong community can remain resilient and resourceful and supportive and connected.

Thank you.
Kathy Welham

I am writing to ask the Committee to register the footpaths across Stoke Lodge field.

From my home, I regularly use the path from the end of West Dene to the Stoke Lodge Adult Learning Centre to attend education classes. This is a very quick and convenient route for me. When the fence was in place with no access through the field, I either had to take a longer route around the roads or risk the very muddy, slippery path around the fence perimeter and arrive for my class with muddy boots. Both of these other routes took longer and were less pleasant, especially in bad weather. I also use the other paths for walks/exercise.

Please preserve all the paths as public rights of way for everyone to use and enjoy.

Alison Chlebig

Dear PROWG Councillors

Since 2014, I have used each of the paths across Stoke Lodge regularly to access various facilities in the local area, firstly from our house on Shirehampton Road and latterly when we moved to the other side of Stoke Lodge.

The reason for using each path may have changed over the years, firstly yellow being a safe route to the pub and blue to the Druid Hill shops or to see friends, then each yellow, blue, red and green a route to push a pram to local baby and toddler groups, the doctors, into the village and then green for the daily school run to Stoke Bishop Primary or each of the paths to walk the kids to local play dates and local clubs and activities. My children are now 13 and 16 and use the paths regularly themselves to visit friends, go to the shops or a safe route to and from the bus stop.

The only interruption of my use of the paths was during the period that Cotham School erected a fence and locked the community out of this vital, safe, beautiful hub of our community. Our use of the paths, when open, was never challenged, nor see signs to suggest we should not use these very well-worn paths. We just saw hundreds of people doing the same.

If the paths were not accessible, I believe we would have used the car hundreds if not thousands of times over the last twenty years, if these safe routes across our community were not available my kids would certainly not have been allowed to venture out with freedom to visit friends so often and at a young age.

Today, my family use all of the pathways regularly in different ways for different reasons; but always providing us a vital connection to our community, local shops and local business.

Please follow the Inspector and Officers recommendation and register these vital routes which link our community in so many important ways.

Kind regards

Emma Burgess

Dear Sirs

I moved to Sea Mills in 2014 and since that date have used the paths across Stoke Lodge several times a week. I moved to the other side of Stoke Lodge some eight years ago and still they have provided me with a vital connection to so many places in the community and local area.

My use of the blue path was probably the most regular from 2014; walking to work daily or to visit friends and local shops. Yellow was used to walk to the village in Westbury at least a few times a week and then when the children came along we all used each path regularly for different reasons; the green path being used twice a day by the kids and four times a day by myself and my partner for the school run.

My kids are now teenagers and these paths connect them safely to the friends on each side of Stoke Lodge, without them they would never have been allowed such freedom and to have the opportunity to gain independence at such a young age.

The fence being erected had a massive impact on how we travelled locally. It was the reason we got in the car more – without the ability to walk and enjoy a beautiful open space on route to somewhere we found that we didn't bother and just took the car. It is so wonderful to have these vital routes back now – please register these paths so that they are protected for everyone today and for the next generation.

Kind regards

Stuart Huggett

Dear Committee Members

I understand there is a meeting on Wednesday 27th November to discuss registration of 4 PROWs at Stoke Lodge parkland.

Being a local resident of the parkland, I often use these routes to walk from my house on West Dene to visit the local shops and services on Shirehampton Road and Stoke Hill. This helps me keep fit, is great for my mental health, reduces my car usage and puts money into the local economy.

The use of these routes was severely impacted by the recent installation of a fence. A lot of routes around the edge of the fence were treacherous to walk on and could often be unusable in poor weather conditions.

I would strongly recommend that the Council register the proposed routes as Public Rights of Ways as this will be beneficial for the community and wider Bristol users for generations to come.

Best regards

Rolf Hudson

This email is a statement of Diana and Jonathan Wyatt who wish the Rights of Way identified by Bristol City Council's expert over Stoke Lodge to be maintained.

We have lived in the immediate area of Stoke Lodge for 37 years. We have regularly used the rights of way to cross the Stoke Lodge area on all the routes identified by the Council's expert.

In particular Jonathan Wyatt, who is now registered blind/partially-sighted, has found that using the rights of way is much safer than using pavements and roads in the area. He has regularly got off the No 3 bus and carefully made his way to Stoke Lodge having a much safer trip home than following the pavement route. He was much disconcerted when Cotham School erected a series of large fences across the rights of way without any public consultation with the users of Stoke Lodge. He is very glad that some citizens chose to use their common law powers to restore the rights of way. In addition he joins with many others in using the rights of way for recreation which is a much safer place for those with a visual handicap.

Diana Wyatt regularly uses the rights of way in particular to visit Stoke Bishop Village Hall for her weekly Pilates class. She walks with a near neighbour and they feel safe crossing Stoke Lodge rather than navigating the narrows pavement from Stoke Paddock Road up Shirehampton Road where the cars travel too fast these days.

We wish the Bristol City Council Committee to confirm the Rights of Way long established over Stoke Lodge, a great green space for the whole of the community.

We make this statement as a statement of truth knowing the consequences of statements that are invented and made up.



Providing a life-enhancing education that develops the character, talents and potential of every child

ACHIEVEMENT ~ DIVERSITY ~ RESPECT

Headteacher: Ms Jo Butler

Statement to Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way and Green Committee

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Item 5. Public Rights of Way Across Cotham School Playing Fields

Cotham School would like to remind the Committee that they are yet again facing community pressure to take action which renders the use of Cotham School Playing Fields impossible. We are one of the City's largest schools, nearly 1700 students whose school playing fields are at risk due to local community challenges. We have a duty to provide a mixed and balanced curriculum including physical education and also to keep our students safe at school.

Cotham School has a 125 year lease of the playing fields, leased by Bristol City Council to Cotham for education purposes. The land is vested to the City Council for education purposes.

Cotham School deeply regrets that you have decided to hold an Extraordinary Committee Meeting to consider the application for public rights of way across our fields instead of working through the usual Committee cycle, and considering as originally scheduled at a future planned meeting. We do not understand why an Extraordinary Meeting is necessary.

We also regret that the officers report before you does not bring to your attention the objections that Cotham School has to the possibility of public rights of way being confirmed across our school playing fields. The report also makes no mention of the City Council as landowner and their views. Our objections are set out in a letter from our solicitor and supported in the outline objection by our barrister, these submissions are buried in the papers - see pages 809 to 827.

You will see in the solicitor's letter, Cotham School's request for deferral of the consideration of public rights of way until the parallel challenge to the designation of our school fields as a Town and Village Green is resolved through the High Court, due to be heard in January 2025. We seek deferral for reason as follows;

'Insofar as the Council took a contrary view of the latter point in its Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee meeting on 28 June 2023, that conclusion is under active challenge before the High

Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, Bristol, BS6 6DT | 0117 919 8000 | info@cotham.bristol.sch.uk | www.cotham.bristol.sch.uk



Cotham School: a charitable company limited by guarantee.

Registered in England: Company Number 07732888

Registered Office: Cotham School, Cotham Lawn Road, Cotham, Bristol BS6 6DT



Court in Cotham School v Bristol City Council (PT-2024-BRS000009), which is listed to be heard between 27-31 January 2025 (with closing submissions on 10 February 2025). The judgment in that matter will resolve important questions of relevance to this matter (in particular the meaning and effect of the signs). Accordingly, the Council may think it appropriate to await the outcome of that process before resolving whether to make this Order (for public rights of way, now in front of you). We therefore invite the Council to resolve not to make the Order or to place the matter into abeyance pending the outcome of the village green litigation.'

We fully understand that you are considering different legislation in seeking to confer public rights of way across our land, but there are clear overlaps of issues for consideration in Robin Carr's Report in front of you today and the Town and Village Green(TVG) Case and thus we urge you to defer this application until the TVG matter is resolved.

We would also like to remind you that land is in scarce supply in the City and needed for many purposes. Cotham School operates from a relatively small urban site in the inner city, we do not have alternative long-term arrangements to provide the physical education for our students needs and hence we seek to resolve the matter of our playing fields for the long term. Cotham School has the residue of a 125-year lease of the fields at Stoke Lodge, it is vital we protect these playing fields for future generations of students.

Thank you for reading this statement, and we hope that you will give this the attention it deserves and defer the decision on the public rights of way applications in front of you.

Sandra Fryer
Chair of Governors

Joanne Butler
Headteacher

Meeting of Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee

27 November 2024 - Re: Rights of Way over Stoke Lodge Playing Field

Public Forum Statement for consideration of the Committee Members

By

**Jonathan M M Johnson
7 West Dene
Bristol BS9 2BQ**

I am the joint Owner/Occupier of 7 West Dene, which I have lived in for the last 10 years.

As a child I was born and brought up in Redland and Clifton, Bristol, educated and trained for my professional career here until the age of 25 when I moved away, and returning here when I retired 10 years ago.

During the period 1965 - 1976 I had many friends who lived in Druid Stoke Avenue, Stoke Paddock Road, Bell Barn Road, Cote Park and Shirehampton Road and I used the pathways the subject of this application crossing Stoke Lodge Playing Fields to get to their homes from local bus stops, for recreation, and to reach the shops on Shirehampton Road.

Upon moving into 7 West Dene I regularly used all the paths across Stoke Lodge to get to Shirehampton Road and Druid Stoke Avenue, to attend adult education courses at Stoke Lodge and to get to Cheyne Road and on down to Combe Dingle.

When Cotham School erected their fence around the Playing Fields these pathways were closed to me, causing considerable inconvenience and irritation.

I am aware how important these routes and paths are to many members of the local community, particularly those less fit and mobile than myself.

I urge the Committee to register all the paths shown in the application papers to protect them for our community. Thank you.

J M M Johnson

25/11/2024